Magdalo video shot in home of Erap aide, says NBI

Story below, COL. 2

PCGG, rights victims cheer Swiss decision

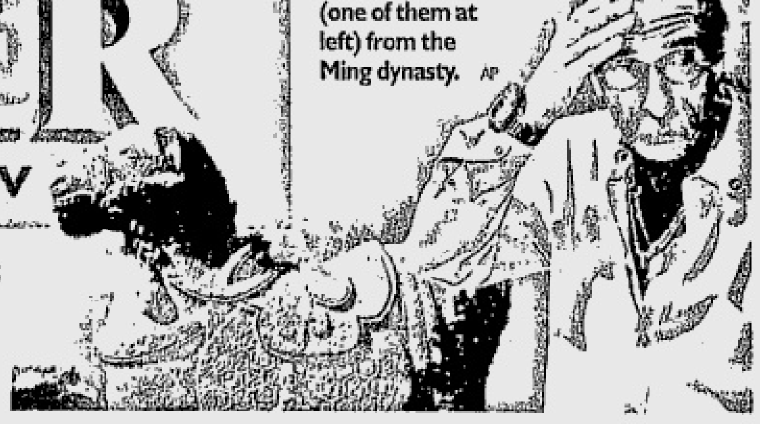
By Dona Pazzibugan and Cristina Arzadon

VICTIMS of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime and the Presidential Commission on Good Government lauded Switzerland's decision to release millions of dollars that the late dictator had stashed in Swiss banks.

PCGG/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS V

Thursday, August 7, 2003 ★★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 240 P15



"AMAZING find," says sea explorer Phil Greco in LA showing off artifacts he recovered off the Philippine coast including 7 statues (one of them at left) from the Ming dynasty. AP

RP gets hold of Marcos loot

$683M can't be touched till victims paid

BERN, Switzerland—Swiss authorities approved the handing over to the Philippine government of the $683 million stashed in Swiss banks by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the justice ministry said here Tuesday.

"The Philippines may now dispose of the Marcos assets that were deposited in a frozen account (of the Philippine National Bank) in 1998 and have since grown to approximately $683 million," the ministry said in a statement.

Swiss and Philippine officials met in Zurich on Tuesday to conclude the case following the July 15 ruling by the Philippine Supreme Court.

The Swiss justice ministry expressed "satisfaction with the positive conclusion of the Marcos case."

The Philippine Supreme Court awarded Marcos' frozen Swiss bank deposits to the Philippine government after ruling that the Marcos family "failed to justify the lawful nature of their acquisition" of the Swiss deposits. The Supreme Court said Marcos could not have legally acquired the funds with his known lawful income.

RP GETS/ A6

US auction house suspends sale of rare antiquities from RP

LOS ANGELES—An auction featuring thousands of antiquities recovered off the coast of the Philippines has been suspended pending an investigation into whether deep sea explorer Phil Greco had the right to excavate there, auction officials said.

The collection, which includes pieces of Chinese porcelain and pottery 2,000 years old, was to be auctioned off next month at Guernsey's in New York.

Arlan Ettinger, president of Guernsey's, said on Tuesday the auction house decided to suspend the event after receiving letters questioning whether Greco had the necessary permits from the Philippine National Museum in Manila.

"It only seems reasonable that we look into some of these claims and some of these comments that people have been making," Ettinger said.

He declined to give further details.

Greco said he followed proper procedures in recovering the relics. His lawyer, David Concannon, said Greco had the necessary permits.

The auction was suspended because of a contract dispute rather than criticism of Greco's excavation, the lawyer said.

The allegations "remain a big is-

US AUCTION/ A6

GMA: No mercy for Oakwood mutineers

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ruled out "unwarranted leniency" for hundreds of soldiers who mutinied in Makati City on July 27, saying the country needed to rid itself of the scourge of military adventurism.

In her speech at the opening of the two-day meeting of Asean finance ministers in Makati City, Ms Macapagal also condemned the latest terrorist attack in Jakarta and called it "a clear message that the war against terrorism in the region must be pursued without letup, through more intensive, multilateral cooperation, the kind of cooperating that we are exercising in

GMA/ A7

7th ASEAN FI NCE MI ISTERS' MEETING
6 August 2003,

INVITATION to a photo-op: Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho (center) asks President Macapagal to pose with the Asean finance ministers at the opening of their two-day meeting at the Manila Peninsula on Wednesday. From left, Cambodia's Keat Chhon, Indonesia representative Yousof Anwar, Laos deputy governor Bank of Lao Phoupet Khamphounvong, Malaysian Ambassador Mohd Taufik Mohd Noor, Burma's General Hla Tun, Ms Macapagal, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Singapore second minister of Finance Hng Kiang Lim, Thailand minister of Finance Suchart Jaovisidha, Vietnam minister of finance Nguyen Sinh Hung, Brunei Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Aziz Umar and Asean secretary general Keng Yong Ong. EDWIN BACASMAS

NBI: Magdalo video shot in Cardenas house

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE VIDEOTAPE shown on national television during the July 27 mutiny in which the Magdalo soldiers aired their demands was shot in the house of Ramon "Eki" Cardenas, former aide of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation said the wall and the door seen in the video were the same as those in Cardenas' house at No. 2177 Paraiso St. in Dasmariñas Village, Makati.

The video was filmed before the soldiers took over the Oakwood Premier luxury apartments at the Ayala Center, according to Wycoco.

Wycoco said the similarity was initially noted after NBI operatives raided Cardenas' house the day after the rebel soldiers agreed to return to barracks.

"When (the operatives) were viewing the video of the officers, (they realized that) the wall and the door in the background were in the house of Eki Cardenas in Paraiso Street," the NBI chief said. "That again indicates that (the soldiers) used the house not only as a staging point but as some sort of operational area."

The house yielded high-powered firearms, ammunition, Magdalo banners and armbands when raided the day after the mutiny. Cardenas was subsequently arrested and charged. He's now detained.

Wycoco said the use of the house to film the video was not included in the coup d'état complaint filed against Cardenas because the NBI obtained the new evidence after the filing of the case.

The NBI director also said that 38 more soldiers would be charged with coup d'état in the coming days. The bureau is waiting for the Armed Forces of the Philippines to submit the names. The names would be added to the complaint filed with the Makati Regional Trial Court.

MAGDALO/ A6

Trillanes interview on TV cut off

By Christian Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

ONE of the leaders of the Makati mutiny was cut off during a phone interview with a late-night television talk show last Tuesday.

Navy Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV was being interviewed by Pia Hontiveros, the host of ANC's "Strictly Politics," when alarmed guards in Camp Aguinaldo reportedly cut him off.

Hontiveros yesterday confirmed that Trillanes had been cut off approximately 10 minutes into the interview.

TRILLANES/ A7

Joker hits Congress' failure to back GMA

SEN. Joker Arroyo yesterday questioned his colleagues in the Senate and the House for their failure to formally express support for President Macapagal-Arroyo in the wake of the July 27 mutiny in Makati City.

In a privilege speech, the administration senator said it was "more disturbing" that his colleagues immediately opened a congressional inquiry into the rebel soldiers' grievances instead of focusing on "the urgent and imperative need to rally behind the leadership."

He also lamented the lack of appreciation for the government troops sent to surround the apartment building taken over by the mutineers, and "who were ready to die for flag and country."

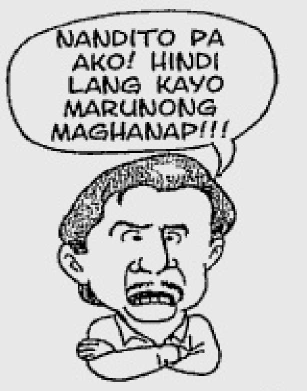
Arroyo was one of six administration senators who filed a resolution last Friday calling for a stop to the Senate inquiry to allow the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police to contain the rebellion, enforce lawful arrests and maintain order.

"Isn't it strange that neither house of Congress has expressed its support for the President in the face of a serious threat to national security? That if the rebellion or the coup d'etat succeeded, Congress like the other constitutional bodies, would have been abolished?" Arroyo said in his speech.

He pointed out that in a state of emergency, the "primordial concern" of the nation's leaders should be the survival of the duly constituted government and the institutions of democracy.

"The members of the Senate

JOKER/ A5


NANDITO PA AKO! HINDI LANG KAYO MARUNONG MAGHANAP!!!

Gringo still in Metro, says ally

By Norman Bordadora and Juliet Labog-Javellana

PEOPLE wondering where El Gringo is hiding don't have to look far.

According to retired Col. George Duldulao, national secretariat chair of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI), Sen. Gregorio Honasan has yet to leave Metro Manila in the course of making himself scarce.

"He called to let us know

GRINGO/ A15

SEEING (FIL-AM) STARS EDWIN BACASMAS
President Macapagal meets Fil-Am Hollywood stars Lou Diamond Philips (left photo) and Tia Carrere who are here for the Makati CineManila International Film Festival starting today until Aug. 24. The President was the special guest at the DTI-E Services forum held at the Shangri-La Hotel.

Ayala lauds handling of mutiny

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE AYALA group has thrown its full support behind President Macapagal-Arroyo and the government following the peaceful resolution of the so-called "Oakwood" mutiny.

Ayala Land Inc. chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala told the INQUIRER at the cocktails tendered for Oak-

AYALA/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and Western Visayas will experience cloudy skies with occasional rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/07/03

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2003

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

FREE AGAIN. Kidnap victim Gertrude Tan is reunited with her son upon arrival in Zamboanga after her escape from her Abu Sayyaf kidnappers. REUTERS

Woman escapes Abu kidnappers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A woman abducted by Muslim extremists escaped after almost four months in captivity, police said yesterday.

Marine products trader Gertudes Tan eluded her captors—guerrillas from the brutal Abu Sayyaf group—on Tuesday in Maimbung town on Jolo island. She walked for about an hour to a highway and took a passenger jeep to downtown Jolo, Chief Supt. Acmad Omar said.

"There was no fighting, but apparently her captors were feeling the pressure of our massive manhunt and decided that they are better off without her," Omar said.

Omar said that earlier in the week, the Abu Sayyaf rebels killed three of Tan's relatives who went to deliver P700,000 as Tan's ransom.

"They were entrapped and killed," prompting security forces to intensify the manhunt, he said.

Tan was abducted April 13 while on her way to church on Siasi island off Jolo. The rebels had originally demanded P5 million for her freedom.

The Abu Sayyaf is a small Muslim rebel group, notorious for kidnappings and beheadings. *AP*

Palace submits ₱865-B budget for '04 to Congress

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday submitted to Congress its proposed national budget of P864.8 billion for 2004, describing it as the fulfillment of President Macapagal-Arroyo's "commitment to fiscal responsibility and discipline."

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin handed over copies of the appropriations bill to Speaker Jose de Venecia and other House leaders, particularly Rep. Rolando Andaya (Lakas, Camarines Sur), chair of the House appropriations committee.

The budget included P43.2 billion for the full implementation of the salary adjustment of officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines that was passed by Congress last year.

It can be recalled that low salaries were among the grievances aired by mutinous soldiers who took over the Oakwood apartments in Makati last July 27.

In her budget message, President Macapagal said that the proposed outlay will be consistent to a deficit target of P197.8 billion or 4.2 percent of the gross domestic product, or lower compared to this year's level of 4.7 percent.

The President said that her administration expects "higher revenue collections and continued restraint in spending" next year with the objective of "gradually returning to a balanced budget position in the medium term."

Ms Macapagal also said that the Bureau of Treasury is planning to establish a trust fund to hold the proceeds of the Marcos wealth and eventually transferred to the general fund once they are already programmed for use.

"The aim of creating the trust fund is to avoid window-dressing the deficit and be transparent in the use of the proceeds," the President said.

Boncodin said that a total of P17.3 billion from the $682 million recently recovered Marcos wealth will go to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

President Macapagal earlier pledged that a portion of the recovered Marcos money will be allotted to victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime.

Congress is in the process of legislating a measure to provide compensation for the Marcos victims.

The P864.8 billion budget is 6.6 percent higher than the 2003 adjusted budget of P811.5 billion.

This is a result of the government's commitment to trim the deficit and the partial inclusion of the proceeds of the Marcos wealth into the agrarian reform program.

"It adheres to the priorities set out by the Macapagal administration: to eliminate graft and corruption, ensure peace and order, and provide for basic public services," said a briefing paper.

The paper noted that the budge focuses on "strategic areas that have multiplier effects on poverty alleviation and economy," like education, agriculture and agrarian reform, industry and tourism, fighting terrorism and lawlessness, and housing.

The top 10 departments with the highest budget allocation were the Department of Education, P107.5 billion; Department of Public Works and Highways, P48.2 billion; Department of National Defense, P45.2 billion; Department of Interior and Local Governments, P43.9 billion; Department of Agriculture, P15.3 billion.

Department of Agrarian Reform, P14.8 billion; Department of Health, P10.4 billion; Department of Transportation and Communication, P9.7 billion; the Judiciary, P7.8 billion; and Department of Finance, P6.8 billion.

The Commission on Elections will get P4.53 billion to ensure honest, orderly and peaceful elections.

Salamat chose to die than be captured

COTABATO CITY—The leader of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front chose to die rather than fall into the hands of government, an MILF spokesperson said yesterday.

Salamat Hashim's family wanted to take him to Cagayan de Oro City or Davao City for treatment after he suffered a mild heart attack on June 29, according to Eid Kabalu.

"He refused by saying he would rather die in the camp than fall into government hands," Kabalu said.

The MILF officially confirmed on Tuesday that Salamat had died on July 13 "somewhere in Mindanao." He was 61.

Kabalu said Salamat had reduced his activities after experiencing the cardiac arrest, his first.

He could hardly walk and was only entertaining visitors in his home in the hinterlands of Lanao, he said.

Kabalu said Salamat might still be alive today had he agreed to be treated in a hospital.

Zamsamin Ampatuan, executive director of the Office of Muslim Affairs, said other relatives wanted to take Salamat to the St. Luke's hospital in Quezon City but he again rejected the offer.

At the time, the arrest warrants against him and other MILF leaders were still in effect.

"He did not want to be caught," Kabalu said.

In Davao City, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said that as early as May he already knew of the plans for Salamat's hospitalization.

Duterte said he had been approached for help by the city housing chief Cesar Dataya, a nephew of Salamat's.

The mayor said he contacted several officials who in turn informed President Macapagal-Arroyo of the request from Salamat's relatives.

Ms Macapagal eventually agreed to help the ailing MILF chair.

Duterte said part of the arrangement was for Salamat to be picked up "somewhere in the Liguasan Marsh or Buliok complex" and taken by helicopter to one of the hospitals in Davao City.

He said he sent word to Salamat about the arrangement and promised to keep his presence in the city a secret. The chopper, owned by businessman Victor Consunji, was already on standby, he said.

Duterte said he waited for word from the MILF. On the first week of June, he said he was told Salamat was not interested in pursuing the plan.

Salamat was allegedly worried there would be a "double cross."

Duterte said he assured Dataya that that was not the intention of government and even offered to have his own son stay with the family of Salamat as a guarantee that the MILF chair would be safe in government hands.

"He may be an enemy... but we don't treat our enemy harshly and we can have him treated until he gets well. We were ready to help. I was even ready to sacrifice my son," Duterte told a press conference on Tuesday.

An internist, who had been attending to the MILF leader in the past few months, said the cardiac arrest had resulted from the enlargement of Salamat's heart.

He was also suffering from a serious case of hyper-acidity that some sources said was the result of the unusual diet that he followed. Salamat reportedly took in only water and hot lemon-tea, skipping meals most of the time.

SALAMAT: He preferred to die in an MILF camp.

Yahyah Lucsadato, a ranking MILF leader, said the other rebel leaders remain committed to the group and were solidly behind the newly elected chair, Ebrahim Murad.

"The chairman's death will only remind us to go on with our struggle. Surely, he died without (giving up) the (fight) for freedom. He showed us the true struggle for freedom," Lucsadato said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Nash B. Maulana and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MILF chief's death won't change gov't stand—GMA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the death of rebel chief Salamat Hashim would not affect the government's policy to pursue peace talks with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

She ordered government negotiators to speed up the pace of the preparations for the talks that would have started this week.

"The leadership transition in the MILF does not affect the basic policy of the government to pursue a just, comprehensive and durable solution to the conflict in Mindanao. We've prepared for the opening of peace talks as scheduled," the President said in a speech during the Asean+3 finance ministers' meeting yesterday

The MILF agreed on Tuesday to pursue the peace talks despite the death of its leader.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said it was now "unlikely" that the talks would start this week as previously announced.

"But I believe there are no major obstacles to the formal meeting in Kuala Lumpur since all the major issues have already been resolved," he said.

A joint ceasefire coordinating committee made up of military and MILF representatives had met on Monday and asked Malaysia and several other Muslim countries to speed up the dispatch of monitors to the ceasefire.

In a statement yesterday, the committee asked the peace negotiating teams of both sides "to initiate or take action in order that the third party monitoring observer teams may be deployed as soon as possible."

Malaysia, which is hosting the planned peace talks between the government and the MILF, has been asked to provide the bulk of third-party monitors, with Bangladesh, Bahrain, Brunei and Libya among others also asked to pitch in.

The joint ceasefire committee said in their statement that Armed Forces chief Gen. Narciso Abaya had ordered all his commanders to give "full support and utmost cooperation" to the committee, in a bid to ensure the ceasefire agreement would be observed.

The two sides signed a ceasefire on July 18. *Gil Cabacungan and AFP*

Ulla tags 2 Abu suspects

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO arrested Abu Sayyaf suspects were yesterday positively identified by Roland Ulla, the last of the so-called Sipadan hostages, as having been part of the bandit gang that raided the Malaysian resort in April 2000 and seized 21 mostly foreign hostages.

Jundam Jawad, 28, and Ben Najar Abraham, 19, have admitted to joining the kidnap gang's raid on the Sipadan dive resort in Sabah, Malaysia in April 2000.

But they said they got the short end of the bargain as they were paid only P5,000 each for their labors.

The government said the Abu Sayyaf got P245 million in ransom money for the release of the Sipadan hostages, 19 of whom were Western tourists.

Jawad and Abraham have been charged with kidnapping and serious illegal detention and face the death penalty.

They were brought yesterday to the Department of Justice to face Ulla who positively identified them as being among those guarding the hostages.

Ulla said he did not see Abraam and Jamad in Sipadan but he did see them at the Abu Sayyaf camp in Talipao, Sulu.

He said the two bandits, armed with M-16 rifles, guarded the Abu Sayyaf camp's perimeter.

State Prosecutor Nestor Lazaro said the two suspects belonged to the faction of Galib Andang, alias Commander Robot.

Army and Marine troops arrested the two in Sulu on June 15 with another Abu Sayyaf member, Alsen Balitung Jandul, alias Jaafar.

Abraham, who spoke halting Filipino, said they were recruited into the Abu Sayyaf by a certain Bari Mai.

When asked why they joined the group, Abraham said "*pera*" (money).

On April 23, 2000, Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Andang; Nadzmi Saabtula alias Global; a Dr. Abu; Mujib Susukan; Radulan Sahiron, alias Putol, raided the Sipadan dive resort in Sabah, Malaysia.

The bandits seized 19 foreigners and two Filipinos. The Sipadan hostages included nine Malaysians, four Germans, two French nationals, two Finns, two Filipinos, and one Lebanese woman

Filipino priest sired 20-year-old woman, California court rules

LOS ANGELES—A state court found that a Roman Catholic priest had fathered a 20-year-old woman whose mother claimed she was sexually abused by the clergyman.

Jacqueline Milla, 20, said her mother had always suspected that the priest, Philippine-born Valentine Tugade, was the father but never had proof until a court-ordered paternity test.

"He may have been called 'Father' in church, but he was no father to me," Milla said at a news conference Monday outside the Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral.

Tugade's lawyer, Peter Manning, did not return a phone call seeking comment on the ruling, which was issued Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Milla's mother, Rita Milla, said the ruling backed her longtime claim that she was sexually abused by Tugade and six other priests, all Philippine-born, when she was a teenager in the 1980s.

"Although my family and friends always believed me, this absolute proof should lay to rest any doubt that may have existed before in anyone's mind that I had a baby from a Catholic priest," Rita Milla said at the news conference.

The Millas' lawyer, Gloria Allred, described the paternity test as "99.99 percent" accurate and said it would be used in a civil suit by Rita Milla against the archdiocese and several priests.

The test cannot be used to sue Tugade for child support, she said.

Spokesperson Carolina Guevara said the Church was offering Milla and her mother "support and prayers."

"We hope this information provides healing," Guevara said.

The case drew headlines in the United States last year when Jacqueline announced publicly that she believed her father was a priest, and asked the Church to help her identify him so she could "know what he looks like."

Her mother, who said she once planned to become a nun, had maintained that she was molested by the Rev. Santiago Tamayo at St. Philomena Church in Ca[illegible] son when she was 16.

After she turned 18, she had sexual intercourse with Tamayo and he introduced her to the six other priests, with whom she also had sex, she had said.

Tugade and the five others attended the same seminary in Laoag City before they migrated to the United States and reunited with Tamayo, the latter's younger brother Dr. Eduardo Tamayo told the INQUIRER in May 2002.

In 1991, Tamayo admitted having had sex with Rita and publicly apologized. He died in 1999 after undergoing surgery for a blood clot in his brain.

Last year, Allred released documents showing the Church urged Tamayo to stay in the Philippines after Jacqueline's birth and mailed checks to him there.

In three letters, Church officials advised him not to reveal the source of the payments "unless requested under oath," noting that he was "liable for personal suits arising out of [his] past actions." *With an AP report*

NEDA sees poverty cut by half in 2015

By Blanche S. Rivera

DESPITE the impact of the Asian financial crisis and the disastrous weather phenomena of recent years, the Philippines is capable of reducing by half the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015, the National Economic Development Authority said yesterday.

In its 2003 Philippine progress report on the millennium development goals, the Neda said that the anti-poverty efforts of administrations from former president Corazon Aquino to President Macapagal were actually paying off. This commitment to anti-poverty programs could push the country to reach the target 10.2 percent of population below poverty threshold from a baseline of 20.4 percent in the 1990s, the Neda said.

The Philippines is not likely to reduce by half the number of underweight children below five years old and has a 50-50 chance of reducing by three quarters the maternal mortality rate among Filipino women.

The economic agency cited the decrease in poverty incidence from 44.2 percent in 1985 to 33.7 in 2000. This translates to 30.8 million poor people in the Philippines as of 2000.

Urban poverty was also reduced to 19.9 percent in 2000 from 33.6 percent in 1985, with poverty incidence in Metro Manila dropping from 23 percent in 1985 to 8.7 percent in 2000..

Rural poverty slightly dropped from more than 50 percent to 46.9 percent in the same years, although poor families in rural areas still accounted for 70.9 percent of poverty incidence in the country.

Neda assistant director general Margarita Songco said that the report was "indicative" of the Philippines' status in achieving the millennium development goals (MDG) formulated by member countries of the United Nations in September 2000.

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1. This special travel section comes out every Thursday, featuring delectable cuisine and fantastic getaways at discounted rates from the country's most luxurious hotels.
   a. Travel Time
   b. Tours, Leisure and Chow
   c. Shores, Beaches and Gourmet
   d. Wow Philippines
2. What is the name of the Inquirer mascot?
   a. Guyingying
   c. Carrie the Cow
   d. Baba the Bull
   e. Guyito the Carabao
3. Who is the singer-actress who was featured in Business Monday last week who will open her first free-standing store in September?
   a. Gretchen Baretto
   b. Sharon Cuneta
   c. Pops Fernandez
   d. ZsaZsa Padilla
4. What is the name of her fashion line that is currently being carried by Anonymous?
   a. Popoy
   b. Pipay
   c. Pepay
   d. Paypay
5. What is the newest radio station in the country today that is certified for the youth aged 15-24? (Entertainment, July 27)
   a. Jam 88.3
   b. 97.1 LSFM
   c. TM 89.9
   d. 96.3 RK

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Joe de V sets September as 'consa' deadline

By Carlito Pablo

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia is looking to September as the absolute deadline for pushing through with amendments to the Constitution by way of a constituent assembly.

De Venecia, who advocates a shift to a unicameral legislature in a parliamentary system, said the House and Senate jointly would still have ample time to introduce Charter changes if they constitute themselves into a constituent assembly by next month.

As required by law, the proposed amendments would have to be brought before the people and approved by a plebiscite.

Pro-amendment lawmakers want the constitutional changes adopted before the national elections in 2004.

De Venecia said that if the constituent assembly is unable to convene by September, Charter change would have to wait until 2010.

The Speaker said he welcomed the Senate's recent decision to bring before the Senate plenary the proposals for Charter change even though a majority of the senators have said they preferred a constitutional convention of elected delegates.

But he remains confident that the constituent assembly proposal that the House earlier approved may still secure a majority vote of 12 from the 22 senators once it is taken up in plenary discussions at the Senate floor.

"We have to take advantage of the remaining time we have," said De Venecia. Congress goes on recess in early September.

Rep. Prospero Nograles, the ruling Lakas-CMD party whip for Mindanao, said the proposed constitutional amendments have been identified and would be ready for discussion and approval once the constituent assembly is convened.

"The amendment process will be swift because we have already identified Charter changes that have to be made," he said.

But he noted that once the doors close on this option because of lack of time, the presidential elections of 2004 would come in full swing.

Noting President Macapagal-Arroyo's remarkable showing in the most recent survey of public presidential preferences surveys by the Social Weather Stations, Nograles said this would compel Ms Macapagal to change her earlier decision not to stand in 2004.

"It's the surveys that really count and if the President's strong showing continues, then it would definitely have a strong impact on her political plans," Nograles said.

The latest SWS survey showed that the President is now the No. 1 choice for presidential candidate, with a positive 20 rating, eclipsing former survey leaders Raul Roco, the former education secretary, and Sen. Noli de Castro.

DE VENECIA

RP bid for UN Security Council seat still strong

By Gerald Lacuarta

THE COUNTRY'S bid for a non-permanent seat in the powerful United Nations Security Council has not weakened despite the mutiny staged by junior military officers.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the credibility of the Philippines as a UN member in good standing and as an active participant in the efforts of the international community to help maintain the peace and security remains intact.

Ople made this statement in reaction to some reports claiming that the aborted coup d' etat in Makati City had adversely affected the chances of the Philippines to win a seat in the UN Security Council.

"The allegations made in these reports, putting into question the ability of the Philippines to govern and relating this to our ability to be an effective member of the Security Council, is not only unfortunate but also baseless and irresponsible. I hope that this is merely the product of idle speculation and nothing else," he said.

The country has been endorsed by the 52-member Asian group as its candidate for a seat in the UN Security Council. It is the sole candidate for the Security Council seat that will be available for Asian countries during the term 2004-2005.

"In the aftermath of the Makati incident, the international community remains confident in the stability and governance of the Philippines. I am in direct communication with many world leaders and diplomats and this is their common refrain," Ople said.

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ADVT.

Joker hits Congress

From page A1

should close ranks and rally their moral and intellectual resources behind the government even as we assert our responsibility to preserve our laws and legal institutions amidst threat to national security," he said.

Arroyo clarified, however, that he was not passing judgment on the actions of Congress.

"I'm hopeful that we can still pause and ponder about the past to guide us in our present actions," he said, and urged his colleagues not to forget the "lessons" learned from the December 1989 coup attempt.

That putsch was mounted by then Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, now a senator of the realm.

Don't glamorize them

Arroyo urged his colleagues not to "glamorize the renegades in the public hearings that feed on the cynicism of the public and play on [its] fears."

"Has either house of Congress even commended the loyal troops who were ready to fight the rebels? I'm not talking about generals or field officers. I refer to the enlisted men and loyal junior officers who were ready to die for flag and country," he said, adding:

"Have we ever congratulated the 200 members of [Philippine Military Academy] Class of '95 who did not join their 16 'mistahs' who led the coup? They are the unsung and unheralded true heroes who stood by the PMA motto, 'Courage, Integrity, Loyalty.'

"What lessons do we give our soldiers on loyalty and discipline, without which no true army can exist, when we fail to acknowledge their vital role in saving the republic?"

Remember 1989

Arroyo started his privilege speech with a narration of the events surrounding the failed coup of Dec. 1, 1989, the bloodiest and the last of the seven coup attempts against the administration of President Corazon Aquino, whom he served briefly as executive secretary.

He noted that the protagonists in the rebellion were now members of the chamber—Honasan and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, then AFP chief of staff.

Honasan then headed the rebel group Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), and General Biazon, the National Capital Region Defense Command.

"Government forces battled the RAM, casualties on both sides were inflicted before remnants of RAM regrouped in the Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati," Arroyo recalled.

Five days later, he said, President Aquino issued a proclamation declaring a state of national emergency.

"What did the Senate do?" he said, and proceeded to answer his own question.

On Dec. 7, an act was introduced to give Ms Aquino emergency powers.

The proposed act, he said, was aimed "to declare in view of the existence of a national emergency, a national policy in connection therewith and to authorize the President ... for a limited period and subject to restrictions, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out the declared national policy and for other purposes."

"In rapid fire fashion," Arroyo said, the measure was referred on Dec. 8 to the committee on amendments, revision of codes and laws and to the committee on national defense.

On Dec. 11, the two committees submitted Report No. 887 to the Senate and by special order, sponsorship and interpellation took place by Dec. 12. An "en contra" speech by then Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was delivered on Dec. 13.

By Dec. 14, the Senate had passed the bill on second and third reading with 19 "yes" votes and Enrile's lone "no" vote.

"Senators [Aquilino] Pimentel and [Edgardo] Angara were co-authors of the bill, while Sen. John Osmeña voted for it," Arroyo noted. "The strong and glowing endorsements of our three distinguished colleagues are etched in the Senate Journals."

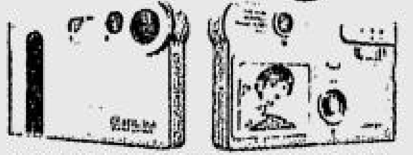
Arroyo also recalled that after the Senate and the House met in the bicameral conference, the bill was passed on Dec. 19 and was signed into law as Republic Act No. 6826 by the President on Dec. 20.

Thus did the Senate instantly lend its support to the President during a national emergency, he said.

In contrast

Compare this to the events following the July 27 mutiny, Arroyo said.

"By some strategic twist and coincidence, [the mutiny] took place in the Oakwood [Premier serviced apartments], which fronts Hotel InterContinental, where rebel soldiers holed up in 1989," he said, noting: "The armed threat was neutralized and resolved on the evening of July 27." *Michael Lim Ubac*



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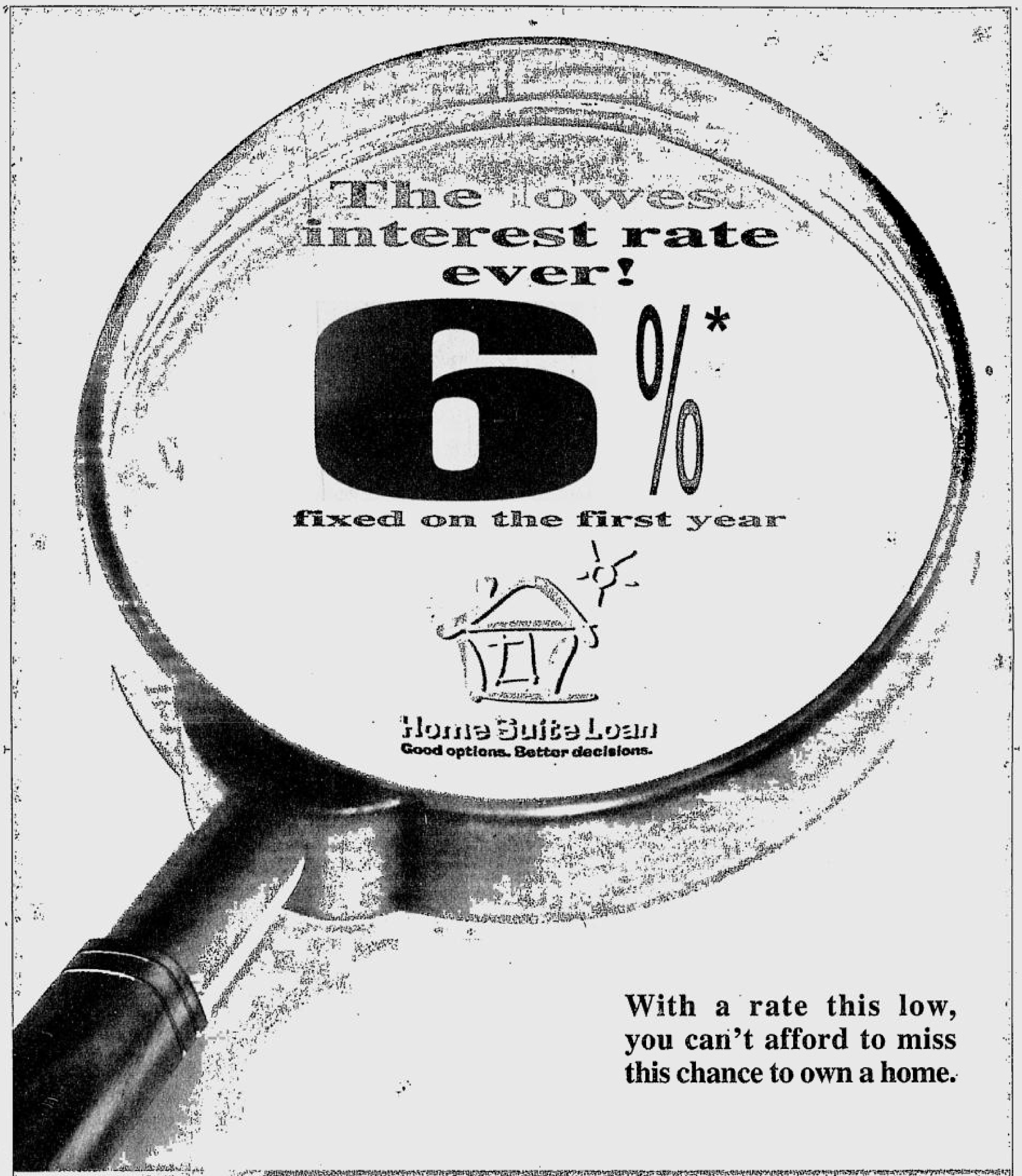

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RP gets hold of Marcos loot

From page A1

Days after the Supreme Court ruling, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she would set aside P8 billion of the money as compensation to the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime. A bill in the House of Representatives seeks to set aside more than P10 billion ($200 million) of the Marcos deposits for the rights victims.

Ruben Carranza, a commissioner of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, who led the Philippine contingent, said the Swiss government wanted to see the Philippine government "adhere to its commitment that it will compensate the victims of Marcos."

Compensation law

In an interview from Zurich, he said the government would stand by its "political commitment." But the money will not be touched until the compensation law is passed, according to Carranza.

Marcos' widow, Imelda, has appealed the Philippine court's decision, saying she, along with daughters Imee and Irene and son, Ferdinand Jr., were deprived of due process. The deposits were held by five foundations, which the government said were owned by Marcos and his wife.

Imelda Marcos said government prosecutors "failed to establish clear and convincing evidence as to the ownership of the funds," adding that her family was a "mere beneficiary and the Swiss foundations are the legal and admittedly, record owners thereof."

Final

Carranza said Mrs. Marcos' motion would have no effect on the ruling of the Supreme Court.

"The position of the Swiss authorities is that the July 15 decision is final. The MR (motion for reconsideration) filed by the Marcoses is not a mode of appeal," Carranza said.

Last week, the government asked the Supreme Court to make its ruling "final and executory" as the case had dragged on for 17 years.

Carranza had met here with Beat Frey of the Swiss Federal Ministry of Justice and District Attorney Dieter Jann. They were joined by PCGG Swiss lawyers Sergio Salvioni and his son Niccolo and two officials from the Philippine Embassy in Bern, Minister Marilyn Alarilla and Consul Mardomel Melicor.

He said the government could now take hold of the Marcos assets held in an escrow account of the PNB. "As far as the Swiss authorities are concerned, the freeze on the funds in the Philippine National Bank does not exist anymore," Carranza said.

"What we'll do is we will discuss the matter with PNB so that PNB can transfer the account to the Philippine government," he added.

Largest amount

Carranza said the Philippine and the Swiss teams also discussed the pending criminal cases against Mrs. Marcos and the Marcos cronies.

Accounts worth about $356 million were discovered and ordered frozen by the Swiss government shortly after Marcos was toppled in 1986. The Swiss funds were the largest amount recovered from the billions of dollars Marcos and his wife allegedly looted from state coffers during the 20-year Marcos rule. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, three years after the Edsa People Power revolt ended his rule.

In 1990, Switzerland's highest court—the Federal Tribunal—approved the handover of bank documents relating to the Marcos family, but ruled that the actual return of assets would be conditional on a "final and absolute" judgment in the Philippines.

The Swiss Supreme Court has ruled that the money can be released to the Philippine government if Mrs. Marcos is criminally convicted in connection with the deposits and if victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime are compensated.

The Marcos estate lost a class-action lawsuit for human rights violations to 9,539 Filipinos, who were awarded nearly $2 billion in compensation by a US district court in Hawaii. None of them have received any money.

In 1997, the Swiss tribunal ruled that the funds were ill-gotten and approved their transfer to an escrow account at the Philippine National Bank.

Money not in RP yet

In 1998, the money—which had grown to $570 million—was transferred to the escrow account of the PNB, but the money was not physically moved to the Philippines. It was invested in London, Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong and the United States as none of the Philippine banks have an "AA" rating from Standard and Poor's. Putting the money in banks with an "AA" rating, which means that "nothing could go wrong with the investment," was a condition set by Swiss authorities.

Swiss authorities held back a portion of the money because it was linked to other government officials, including former ministers.

Switzerland later released $30 million, saying Philippine authorities failed to provide evidence that they were still pursuing the individuals concerned.

Still frozen

The Justice ministry said $10 million remained frozen in Switzerland, while $5.5 million was transferred to the Philippine escrow account. But a Philippine court will have to issue a separate final ruling before the $15.5 million total can be handed over to the Philippine government, the ministry said.

"The Philippine judicial authorities will therefore have to issue a ruling on the confiscation of $15.5 million in the names of persons associated with the Marcos case," the statement said. *Reports from AP, AFP and Dona Pazzibugan*

Lawyers say mutineers open to armpit test

THEY are open to an "armpit test," said the lawyer for Lt. sg. Antonio Trillanes and four other leaders of the July 27 mutiny, Argee Guevarra.

He said his clients were open to the test to determine if any of them was present in an alleged bloodletting ceremony that sealed the plot to oust the Macapagal administration.

"There's no problem with that as long as there's a court order," the lawyer said.

"The test can only materialize through the proper motion of either the prosecution or the defense," Guevarra added.

A ranking police official had suggested the test to ascertain the claim of the government's star witness that Trillanes and his men attended a "blood compact" ritual led by Sen. Gregorio Honasan in San Juan last June 4.

In a sworn statement, the witness Maj. Perfecto Ragil claimed that the alleged coup plotters ended the ritual by carving "I" marks on the inner portion of their left arms.

Guevarra refused to say if any of his clients had such a scar.

In a separate TV interview, another lawyer, Roel Pulido, shared lawyer Homobono Adaza's observation regarding the absence of marks left by the supposed blood compact.

"I did not notice any," Pulido said, "although I may not have been looking."

PCGG, rights . . .

From page A1

A group of human rights victims welcomed the release of the funds as "a historic victory for the Filipino people."

"For the 9,539 victims of the Marcos martial rule, it draws them nearer to their long overdue compensation," Rod Domingo, lawyer of Claimants 1081, said.

"It is now up for Congress to pass a valid and constitutional law which can withstand legal scrutiny," he said.

Commissioner Vyva Aguirre of the PCGG, the agency tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of Marcos and his cronies, described the Swiss decision as "good news for the government."

"This is it. It means we're not waiting for anything more at least on the Swiss side," she said.

But Aguirre said the PCGG would still wait for the passage of a compensation bill, which seeks to allocate $200 million to victims of human rights violations during Marcos' martial law rule.

"We're still pushing for it," she said.

House Bill No. 4535 and Senate Bill No. 1877 seek to amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) so that rights victims can get $200 million in compensation from the $683 million in Marcos deposits. Without the amendment to CARL, all ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies that the PCGG recovers will go to agrarian reform.

In Laoag City, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. believes that the Swiss deposits of the Marcoses amount to $750 million, not $682 million, which the Supreme Court has forfeited in favor of the government.

"It's $750 million. What happened to the $100 million? Why did the $100 million disappear?" Marcos asked.

The governor said the supposed "missing" amount could have been used as payback to the government presumably for a favorable court decision.

"*Baka iyon ang ipambabayad nila.* That's P5 billion, *tamang-tama kung hati-hatiin mo*," he said.

He said the Supreme Court decision on the bank deposits indicated that the Macapagal administration was going after its political opponents in the 2004 election.

The young Marcos cited the decision on the coco levy funds that the Sandiganbayan handed down in favor of coconut farmers.

The decision was adverse to businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, widely perceived to be a presidential hopeful.

"It's very clear that they are going after all the prospective (opposition presidential aspirants). They started with (Sen. Panfilo) Ping Lacson, then the attack went to Ambassador Cojuangco, and now the Marcoses," the governor said.

He said the judicial process was not followed when the Supreme Court came up with the decision on July 15 without trial.

"As you remember, another line of recourse . . . the Swiss agreement clearly stated that a trial was necessary. We started (talking) with the Swiss authorities to look into the decision," Marcos said.

Ayala group lauds handling of mutiny

From page A1

wood employees late Tuesday that the government deserved everyone's support and that it was time to be united.

"Our country has a lot of problems and no single individual can solve them. It is said that we spend so much time complaining, bickering and criticizing. So many institutions need reform. We know that there are no short cuts and easy solutions to these problems," he said.

Zobel also lauded the Macapagal administration for exercising restraint at the height of the crisis that could have resulted in the loss of many lives, particularly employees and guests staying at the Oakwood Premiere Ayala Center during the July 27 mutiny.

"We appreciate the fact that our President and the leaders of the Armed Forces did everything possible to bring this to a peaceful end," Zobel said.

Heroism questioned

But he also said that the rebellion should be condemned by all.

"I can never understand or accept talk of heroism and patriotic acts on the part of the rebels. This act was not only criminal but also totally unpatriotic and should be condemned by everyone," Zobel said.

There may be legitimate concerns, he explained, but these should be resolved separately.

The act of rebellion, he stressed, should not be condoned because it would leave the impression that anybody with a grievance could just take up arms to make a point.

"That is not the way that we solve problems in the Philippines or raise grievances," he said.

Emphasis on gripes

Zobel also deplored the seemingly greater emphasis placed on the grievances raised by the rebels, even if some would turn out to be legitimate.

"I have been very concerned about the fact that more attention was being placed by many quarters on the alleged grievances of this group of men rather than on the act itself," he said.

"The President and her Cabinet deserve our full support in making sure that the act itself is condemned in the strongest possible terms. The failed coups of the last two decades have brought enormous damage to our country," he said.

Zobel said that the grievances are a separate issue.

"I feel that President Arroyo has moved very quickly on this and put together an excellent panel to conduct the investigation," he said.

"I have the highest respect for former Justice (Florentino) Feliciano and the other members who were selected and I feel that it was right for the President to choose some individuals from the class of the rebels to participate in the process," he added.

"We know that there are no shortcuts and easy solutions to these problems. The process will be a long and difficult one with no easy solutions but we cannot have the future generations think that the armed rebellion is the only way to bring about change," Zobel added.

In Batangas

Zobel was in Batangas when he first learned about what had happened at Oakwood at about 2 in the morning. He rushed back to Manila and since then kept in close contact with ALI president Francisco Licuanan III and the management of Oakwood.

"Our immediate concern was the safety of our guests and personnel. The president (Licuanan), immediately went to the scene and was personally involved in providing leadership and in giving assurance of our concern for people and their safety," Zobel said.

Zobel said that he has only the best words for the Oakwood staff who kept their cool in a dangerous situation. But he also expressed his gratitude to the rebels who made it clear from the beginning that they did not want to hurt anybody.

"They released the guests and subsequently released our staff members safely. We certainly appreciated that," he said.

Hotel employees honored

Oakwood Worlwide president Jim Klein, on the other hand, pushed through with his plan to visit the Philippines and personally hand over awards to 44 Oakwood employees in recognition of their services rendered during the mutiny.

"As the events unfolded, the concerns of our Oakwood people were not political. They were completely focused on the safety and security of our guests and staff," Klein told reporters yesterday in a briefing.

Klein arrived from Oakwood's headquarters in Los Angeles, both to honor the employees and to express the group's confidence in the Philippines, calling it a critical market in Asia.

Klein stressed that it was the first time that the Oakwood Group will hand out Distinguished Service Awards to its staff. Each one would also get a token monetary award for their service.

US auction house . . .

From page A1

sue, but they were not the basis for the termination," Concannon said, adding that he remained hopeful the auction would take place.

One of the letters to Guernsey's came from the Philippine Consulate in New York, according to Concannon. Consulate officials did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment.

National Museum Deputy Director Cecilio Salcedo previously told the INQUIRER the museum planned to join representatives of the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Customs in the Philippines in their own investigation.

RP consulate lauded

Yesterday, National Museum Director Corazon Alvina declined to give an update on the probe, which she described as only a fact-finding exercise.

Alvina said that as far as she knew, Guernsey's was merely "postponing" the sale of the artifacts because of "organizational" and not legal questions.

"The news that I have is that the gallery curator just needed more time," she said.

Asked if the Museum had a hand in the Philippine Consulate's letter to Guernsey's, she said the consulate "probably acted independently" as it "neither called or asked us" on the matter.

The consulate, nevertheless, should be lauded for what it did, she said.

23,000 artifacts

Greco and his company, Stallion Recoveries, have retrieved 23,000 artifacts from at least 16 shipwreck sites in the South China Sea since 1997. Some of the items, including seven massive statues, date back to the Ming Dynasty.

Greco, who now lives in Los Angeles, had served in Vietnam during the war and returned to Southeast Asia in the 1980s. He said he developed personal bonds with Filipinos and worked with them to excavate the sites.

"We painstakingly had taken the effort and years of time in the countries to try and honor all of their laws—which we did," Greco said. "I didn't think I would have these types of legal problems."

Greco said he understood some of the criticism directed at him but believed observers were jealous of his huge haul.

"They're still not happy with the aspect that someone who's not a Filipino went into their country and did this and is going to receive a lot of money out of it," he said.

Code of ethics

Professional archaeologists follow a code of ethics that prohibits commercial recovery, said Donny L. Hamilton, president of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University.

"When you get a collection like that, it gets scattered to the four corners of the globe," Hamilton said. "Therefore, you can never thoroughly study the material."

Greco hopes to patch things up with Guernsey's and prove that what he did was legitimate.

"Archaeologists can say one thing, but I've done my homework," Greco said. "This is really, truly, an amazing find." *Reports from AP and Volt Contreras*

Magdalo video shot in Cardenas house—NBI

From page A1

The other new evidence obtained by the NBI was a copy of a claim stub for a box of medical kits from a Cebu Pacific flight. The same box of medical kits was later found in Cardenas' house.

Wycoco said the medical kits were claimed by Ensign Jonah Arugay, a member of Class 2000 of the Philippine Military Academy. He is among the 321 soldiers initially charged with coup d'état.

"It is quite obvious that one of the officers who stayed at the house of Eki Cardenas is Jonah Arugay," he told reporters.

Similar kits were recovered at Oakwood.

Balikatan exercises

Wycoco said these kits were used during the RP-US Balikatan exercises. "Maybe these (kits) were their savings from Balikatan," he said.

Two steel knives given to the mutineers and believed to be those used in the blood compact of the officers involved in the failed attempt at power grab were also recovered.

Wycoco said the leaders of the mutiny used the knife during the blood compact and then left it "as a souvenir or as a manifesto of leadership to the members of the core group."

The NBI has obtained the labels and the boxes of the two knives, which the bureau will use to trace their origin with the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"From there we will know who bought them," Wycoco said. The NBI earlier sought the help of its American counterpart to track down the paper trail of the P31-million worth of communication materials the mutineers had used.

NBI-NCR Director Edmund Arugay said the shorter version of the knife costs P7,000.

Arugay said the NBI had traced the makers of the red Magdalo flags used by the rebels through the tags the company had put on the banners.

VIDEO footage of the Magdalo group declaring its protest against the military top brass and the Macapagal administration.

PDI PHOTO

Where flags ordered

The company has been identified as the International Flag House (IFH) on Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

IFH employee Glenn Mabag, 29, said he could remember the face of the man who ordered 200 flags and banners from him if he saw him again. He said the man had a military-style haircut, was brown-skinned and was around 5'5" to 5'6."

Mabag said the man placed the order on June 4 and told him that the flags would be used for an Independence Day play in Baguio. The flags were claimed on June 10, more than a month before the mutiny.

He said the man had specified to him that he should merge the designs of two flags—the one with the sun insignia with the KKK in the middle and the one with the stylized "I." He added that the man had asked for 2x3 and 3x5 sized flags.

Mabag himself produced the specified design on the computer before giving it to other employees for reproduction.

Wycoco said the man who ordered the flags and banners had initially written a name on the job order that he gave to Mabag, but erased it with a pen on his later visit. The man then wrote "DECS" in place of his name.

But the NBI has the technology to read the name even if it has been blackened, according to Wycoco.

Mabag said that when he initially saw the Magdalo flag on TV he did not immediately realize that those were the ones the company produced because June was a busy month for the company.

He only got to thinking that the flags came from their company when he remembered the order and the design that the man had placed.

Another company employee, Loiet de Villa, has also given her statement to the NBI.

The NBI is also trying to track down the makers of the Magdalo armbands.

GMA vows no mercy for Oakwood mutineers

From page A1

this finance ministers' meeting."

Southeast Asian finance ministers said that the Jakarta bombing and the Makati mutiny were complicating their efforts to improve and integrate the economies in the region.

More than 300 junior officers and men face life imprisonment for allegedly launching a coup d'etat during the daylong siege in the Makati financial district. The mutiny failed to muster wide support and collapsed. Officials said the mutiny was part of a larger plot involving certain politicians to depose Ms Macapagal and replace her with a 15-member junta.

Ms Macapagal said the mutineers would be prosecuted with the full force of the law as a deterrent to other rebel troops. Military adventurism, she explained, remains a problem because the soldiers who launched a spate of deadly coup attempts a generation earlier had gotten away with murder.

Laws violated

"Because laws have been violated and the Constitution has been threatened, we can assure due process but not unwarranted leniency," Ms Macapagal said in her speech.

"The resurgence of mutinies can be traced in part to a reluctance to enforce justice against military adventurism," she added.

Corazon Aquino, who was installed as President by a military-backed popular revolt against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in Edsa I, foiled seven military rebellions in the late 1980s that left hundreds dead, many of them civilians.

The Macapagal administration has accused opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan, leader of the coup attempts in the late 1980s, of instigating the latest mutiny. The former Army colonel has denied the charge and has gone in hiding.

Fidel Ramos, a former general who succeeded Aquino, bought a decade of relative peace by striking a peace settlement with Honasan and other military rebels and granting them blanket amnesty in 1995.

In the 2001 Edsa II, another military-backed popular revolt unseated President Joseph Estrada and replaced him with Ms Macapagal, who was then the Vice President. The Supreme Court has upheld Ms Macapagal's accession to power, saying Estrada had resigned. The former actor has been detained while undergoing trial for corruption.

"We have learned our lessons and we will not allow the duly constituted political authority to be held hostage by a few men-at-arms," Ms Macapagal said.

"Civilian authority will never be forced to act upon any grievances to the end of a gun, especially those that are already being acted upon."

Business as usual

Despite the short-lived mutiny, "business continues as usual," Ms Macapagal assured the Asean finance officials. "We are consolidating our position rapidly."

With criminal charges lodged against the mutineers and an independent commission looking into the root causes of military restiveness, "it is fitting that the din of recriminations pipe down and give way to sobriety and prudence," Ms Macapagal added.

The message was apparently directed at Congress, which has been insisting that the military allow the detained leaders of the mutiny to testify at parallel congressional public hearings.

Sending a message

The Asean finance ministers couldn't have chosen a better venue for their meeting to send a message to investors that things are back to normal. The meeting is being held at the Manila Peninsula Hotel—just a block away from the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, the site of the Makati mutiny.

Even Ms Macapagal was visibly pleased at the choice of venue for the Asean meeting. "Thank you for recognizing that Makati is back to normal, the Philippines is back to normal," she said.

"This past week, we have seen an increase in visitor arrivals over the week before and you are part of them," Ms Macapagal added.

Asean Secretary General Ong Keng Yong said "what is important now is Southeast Asia must come out and convey that things are all right."

Indonesia's finance minister, however, was unable to attend the Asean meeting in Makati following Tuesday's bombing of the luxury JW Marriot Hotel in Jakarta that killed 14 people and wounded 148.

Ong acknowledged that the Makati mutiny and Jakarta bombing had dampened investor confidence. Both events took place at major financial centers in the region. *Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana, AFP and AP*

Trillanes . . .

From page A1

It was at the point when she was asking him if there was indeed a June 12 **(June 4, according to the government's star witness.—ED)** meeting among the soldiers who staged the rebellion on July 27, Hontiveros said.

There was a "commotion" for about 10 seconds in which a muffled sound of a man's voice sounded like he was ordering Trillanes to hang up, she recounted.

'Suppresion'

But before the line was cut, she recalled, Trillanes managed to slip on-air the words, "I have to put down the (receiver) ... I have to go ... This is suppression."

Trillanes' lawyer Argee Guevarra yesterday claimed that the interrupted interview only proved that his client and the other alleged leaders of the July 27 mutiny were indeed under "incommunicado detention" at Camp Aguinaldo.

Guevarra said the line used during the interview was the camp's local number, 5329, which was the detained officers' "life line" to their families and lawyers.

"Now that the secret number has been discovered," he told the INQUIRER, "I don't know how else we could communicate with them."

Isafp chief irked

The Trillanes interview from inside his cell at the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) has irked military officials.

Acting Isafp chief Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay ordered new restrictions, such as limiting the visiting hours of lawyers and relatives and conducting a thorough search of visitors' personal belongings to prevent press statements of the detained officers from being brought out of their detention cell.

"They told me that visitors would be searched, presumably because they don't want any communications going in and out," said Roel Pulido, Trillanes' counsel.

He added, "If I remember correctly, during martial law, the detainees were able to send letters everyday, and there was nothing wrong about that. Has martial law been declared?"

New restrictions

The fresh restrictions came as Trillanes, tagged leader of the short-lived Oakwood mutiny, marked his 32nd birthday with a small group of family members and friends inside his cell.

"They violated our trust; it won't happen again," Cabuay said in a phone interview, referring to the ANC.

Pulido, who's also the lawyer for four other alleged mutiny leaders, confirmed the new restrictions after emerging from consultations with his clients inside their detention cells at around 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Guevarra said Pulido, his co-counsel, had a hard time entering the Isafp compound to talk to their clients.

The new visiting hours are from 1:30 to 5 p.m., according to Pulido.

The Isafp has banned visitors from bringing mobile phones inside their cells.

Unlike previous meetings with his clients, Pulido talked to his clients one at a time with iron bars between them.

"They were angry with me," Pulido said, referring to the Isafp who didn't take kindly to the ANC interview with Trillanes.

Cabuay explained that he imposed the new rules as acting Isafp chief, but Pulido theorized these could be an offshoot of the ANC interview with Trillanes and the Senate's scheduled hearing on the mutiny tomorrow.

The lawyer said he is considering filing a motion to question the new rules.

Another lawyer of the young officers, Homobono Adaza, said that the restrictions are violative of RA 75, which allows lawyers to visit their clients any time of the day or night. He reminded military officials, it is a crime to stop lawyers from seeing their clients.

32nd birthday

Trillanes celebrated his birthday with his lawyer, fellow mutineers Ltsg. James Layug, and Captains Gary Alejano, Gerardo Gambala, Milo Maestrecampo, and Nick Faeldon, and family members, and friends.

"It was a nightmare," Trillanes' mother, Estrellita, told reporters when asked about the atmosphere at the Isafp headquarters, adding that if there was one thing she wanted for the young Trillanes it was: "Freedom for my son."

"He was happy; it was his birthday. The other officers sang 'happy birthday' to him while we were talking, but they couldn't gather around," said Pulido. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

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Continuing threat

EDITORIAL

INDONESIAN authorities have described as a terrorist attack the car bombing of the Marriott Hotel in central Jakarta last Tuesday, which killed 14 people and wounded scores of others. The bombing demonstrates that Asia, including Islamic nations, is not safer from terrorist attack than Western countries, including the United States, which has been the main target of Islamic extremist bombings blamed on al-Qaida.

Although no group has claimed responsibility for the bombing, the Indonesian police chief, General Da'i Bachtiar, saw the handiwork of the Asian terrorist group, Jemaah Islamiyah, in the attack. He said the blast "was similar to the bombing in Bali" last October that killed 202 people, mostly Australian tourists.

JI's alleged leader, Abu Bakr Bashir, is facing trial for treason over a series of bombings in 2002. The attack came ahead of the first verdict, which is expected today, in the Bali trials in which three dozen alleged JI members have been accused. The bombing came after President Megawati Sukarnoputri condemned Islamic militants for their "blind fanaticism."

Indonesian Vice President Hamzah Haz said the attack may have been targeted at American interests in Indonesia. The Marriott Hotel is frequented by foreigners and diplomats. The attack was apparently aimed at scaring investors and tourists, and it came even as Indonesia continued to struggle to recover from the economic shocks of the Bali bombings.

Most of the victims of the bombing were Indonesians, although two Americans, two Singaporeans, an Australian and a New Zealander were wounded. Terrorist attacks, whatever the political or religious motivations, obviously do not choose their victims on the basis of nationality.

The anti-American color of the attack is discounted by the fact that although Megawati has pledged to combat terrorists as "a terrifying threat," she has been a reluctant partner in the US-led coalition in the war on terrorism, unlike the Macapagal administration which has backed to the hilt US President Bush's anti-terrorist campaign, including the war on Iraq.

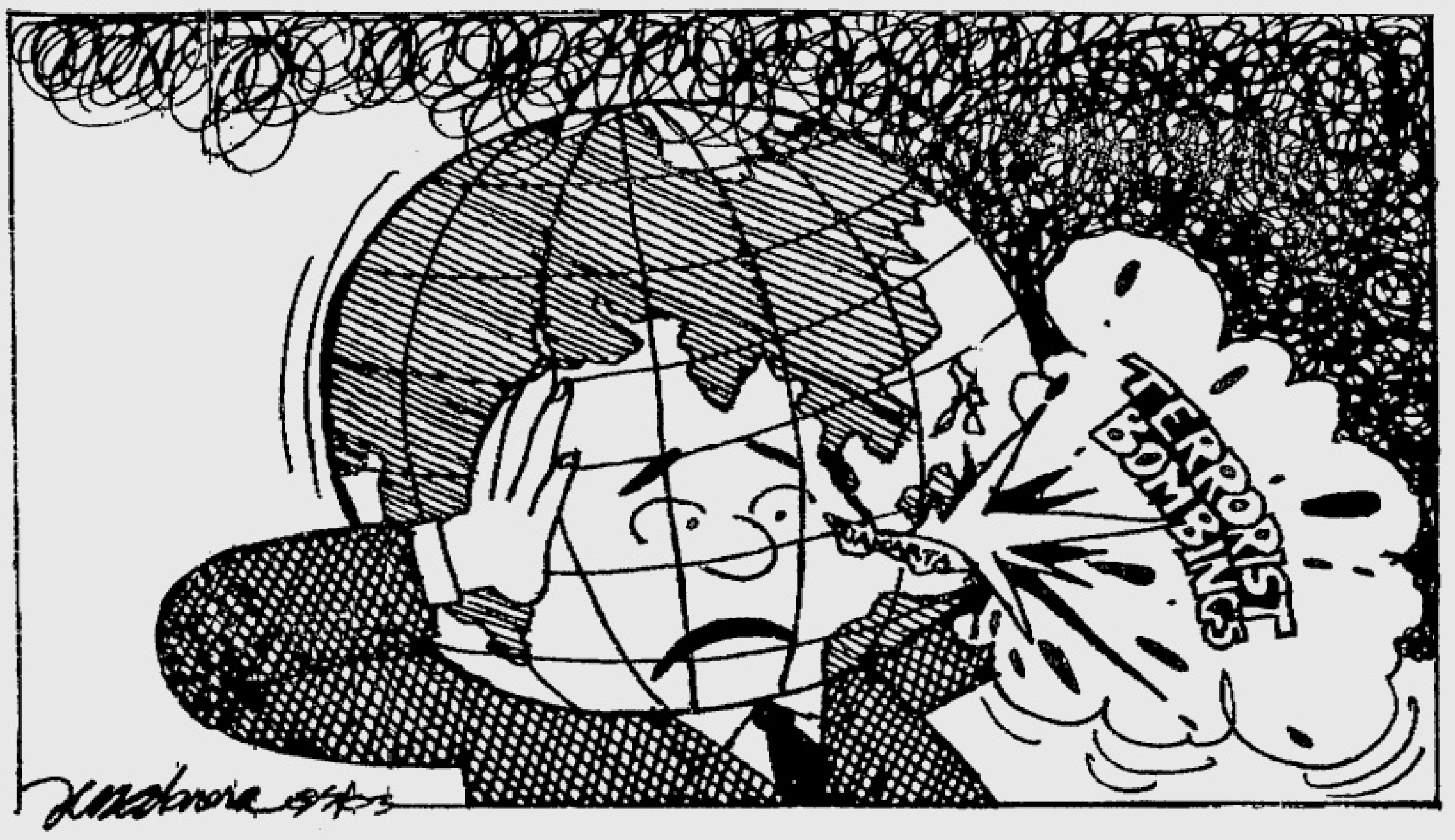
The bombings in Indonesia are not without resonance in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines and even Malaysia. Southeast Asian governments have acknowledged that JI has links with al-Qaida.

Emphasizing the transnational character of terrorism, the tentacles of JI have been uncovered in the Philippines, where Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a confessed JI member and an Indonesian, had been jailed after having been found guilty of possession of explosives. Al-Ghozi, who escaped from the custody of the Philippine National Police last month, had admitted to have helped plan bomb attacks on the Light Rail Transit station in Metro Manila in December 2000 that killed 20 people.

The Jakarta bombing serves as a warning that Southeast Asian nations should redouble their cooperation in the regional fight against terrorism, as a terrorist attack in one country can have repercussions in each of them. The Jakarta blast has shocked the Jakarta currency market and the stock exchange. The rupiah fell to 8,625 to the US dollar, compared to Monday's 8,490. The blast delivered a blow to Indonesian tourism, an important dollar earner for that country.

The target of terrorist attacks is to inflict damage to the economies of the region. It has nothing to do with religious conflict. The new attack in Indonesia came after the American military victory in Iraq that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein. And it has demonstrated that the invasion of Iraq did not lead to the reduction of terrorist threats.

After the fall of the Saddam regime, al-Qaida which is believed to have suffered a setback after the fall of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, has not ceased to be a threat. Only recently it threatened to mount fresh attacks on targets located not only in the United States but elsewhere. Given the links of JI with al-Qaida, there is no room for complacency in the Philippines and the rest of Southeast Asia that they are secure from further terrorist attacks. Southeast Asia is no safer from these attacks than it was before the invasion of Iraq.



Construct more parking buildings

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IN ALL the efforts to solve the traffic congestion in Metro Manila, our officials forget one thing that can be summed up in this saying: "You can't put two pounds of sh— in a one-pound bag." Every year, the car manufacturers churn out thousands of vehicles, but there are neither streets nor parking places to put them in.

In other developed countries, new vehicles are usually phased out in five years or so. But in the Philippines, vehicles are made to last almost forever because of their prohibitive prices. Just look at the World War II jeeps: they're still running today as the ubiquitous jeepneys, thanks to the resourcefulness and skill of Filipino mechanics and *lateros*. There are many more jeepneys now in the Philippines than during the entire Pacific War. The same thing is happening to the other vehicle models being manufactured and imported here. They are increasing as fast as the children in squatter colonies. You can make the Filipino part with his vehicle only over his dead body.

But streets, where they're supposed to roll, and parking places, where they're supposed to stay when not rolling, are not being built as quickly. So there is no place to put them in. That is the equivalent of two pounds of sh— being squeezed into a one-pound bag.

Even streets that have long been planned—some dating back to the American colonial and Commonwealth days (like Congressional Avenue in Quezon City)—have not been built because of lack of funds, worsened by graft and corruption and squatter-coddling. Owners and developers of commercial properties don't set aside enough parking lots for their customers because of the high cost of land. Even those which have done that, like Shoemart, Shangri-la, and Robinson's, don't have enough parking slots. The Building Code requires builders of condominiums to put in enough parking slots for their owners and tenants and their visitors, but they cheat.

So where do all the excess vehicles park? On the sidewalks and out in the streets. MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando is trying his best to rid the sidewalks of vendors but their places are being taken over by vehicles. So pedestrians, to whom the sidewalks belong, are forced to walk on the streets where they run the risk of being sideswiped by passing vehicles. (My own elderly aunt was sideswiped, run over and killed by a tanker-truck while walking beside a sidewalk filled with parked vehicles and vendors.)

Some big hotels use Rizal Park, which is for park-goers, as their private parking lots. Some business establishments mark the sidewalks for vehicles, rope them off, and hire security guards to reserve them for vehicles of customers, thus displacing pedestrians for whom sidewalks are intended. As the name implies, sidewalks are for walking, not for parking.

Streets, which are supposed to be for moving vehicles, become parking lots, depriving moving vehicles of space. That section of Tandang Sora near the corner of Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City has been illegally transformed by jeepney drivers into their terminal. The jeepneys are double-parked at all hours on both sides of the street, and students from Culiat High School and New Era Elementary School are forced to walk almost in the middle of the street. The strange part is that there is a Police Community Center within spitting distance, literally, but the policemen there don't shoo the jeepneys away. They must have plenty of reasons for not bothering the drivers.

Some cities have already recognized, and addressed, this problem of too many vehicles in too little space. In Tokyo, no vehicle can be sold to anybody until he or she can show a title to a parking slot. About time we should be doing that here but we don't. Our policymakers are either stupid or are afraid of the car manufacturers.

Drive around Metro Manila at night and you will see how badly we need to adopt the Tokyo rule. Vehicles are double-parked everywhere, even on narrow streets, in first-class villages or in the supposedly poorer sections. Who says the squatters are poor when they have many vehicles, some of them expensive models, and numerous television antennas sprout from their roofs like mushrooms after a rain?

Most mayors, who should know better, forget the urgent need for parking places and for giving back the sidewalks to the pedestrians. For example, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte is transforming the sidewalks of Tomas Morato Street, a restaurant row, into a promenade. He is in the middle of paving them with bricks. When finished, Morato will be beautiful, with sidewalk cafés, just like Eastwood City in Pasig, Greenbelt in Makati and, soon, Avenida Rizal in Manila. No doubt diners will flock to Morato.

But where will they park their vehicles? They can't leave them in the narrow, dark sidestreets of Kamuning because the residents will complain as the vehicles will block their driveways.

The sensible thing would be to close Morato to vehicular traffic from Timog to Roces Avenue and make it a pedestrian promenade, just like downtown Rizal Avenue. The people can then stroll to their favorite restaurants. (With vehicular traffic, the diners and drinkers at the sidewalk cafés will just choke on the emissions from vehicle exhausts.)

But where will they leave their vehicles? The mayor forgot the parking lots. There should be parking buildings nearby, otherwise potential customers would stay away. Belmonte should give incentives, like cheap loans and tax holidays, to property owners who would construct parking buildings on their lots. Then watch business boom.

'Musikero'

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I HAVE yet to hear of a veteran of the "folk invasion" of the 1970s, as James Taylor calls it, who doesn't have a horror story to tell about his past gigs. I heard them again last Sunday at the wake of a friend.

The horror stories have to do with customers imagining musicians are the live versions of jukeboxes and can be made to play any tune they want. The most famous story is the one that came out in the papers in the early 1990s, which has since become urban legend.

That was the singer that got the request to play "Highway Star" in a bar in Sta. Mesa. If you're familiar with "Highway Star," which you would be if you were a habitué of that garishly magical rock dive known as Markfoods in Welcome Rotunda in the 1990s, you know that there is no way in hell, or in the highway leading to it, a solo singer can sing the song. It is a pulse-pounding, ear-splitting, adrenaline-pumping joyride by Deep Purple. But who knows what thoughts lurk in the minds of besotted soldiers having R and R?

The singer apologized for not being able to sing the song. The fellow who made the "requisition"—that's what's printed on the paper they give out in Markfoods, "requisition slip," written with no attempt at humor—felt slighted. Refusing to be appeased, he threw a grenade at the singer.

I do not know now how it ended. The news report was sketchy, and the incident has since passed into the misty regions of rock myth.

One particularly tragicomic one I heard last Sunday was that of a former folksinger who got a request to sing "My Way." This was well before the Age of Karaoke when "My Way" became the single most lethal song in bars, and people shot or knifed each other to death because they all wanted to sing that song. (Talk of doing things their way.) My friend, Pete, was asked to sing that song by a group of drunken men in the front row. Pete said politely he did not know the song but would sing something else for the group.

Before he could launch into his opening riffs, a half-empty beer bottle flew in his direction. The blood rushed to Pete's face, and before he could think of what he was doing, he stormed into the group and smashed his guitar on their table. The group was taken aback and froze. But after they recovered, they jumped out of their chairs and chased my friend all the way to the street. Fortunately, they were too drunk to catch him. But after catching his breath, Pete realized that he had just lost his guitar, his income that night, and very nearly his life.

The wake that sparked these recollections was that of my friend, Jovi Abella, who passed away last Saturday from a sudden re-visitation of an old affliction. He was my age. He was a musician.

I don't recall Jovi having any complaints of the nature above to tell. He was well named, being a completely amiable, if not jovial, person, who was in a perpetual state of amusement, looking at the world with wry eyes. His horror stories were of another kind.

I remember him once telling me about playing in Japan with a group in the 1970s (or was it 1980s?). They were a fairly serious group that wanted to experiment with more adventurous music. Unfortunately, their audience was not, and did not. Their audience wanted them to play "The Boxer" pretty much the whole night. Unfortunately too, or fortunately, depending on how you look at it, their audience knew how to express their gratefulness in tips. When vastly pleased, they vastly tipped, flinging wads of bills on to the stage, or stuffing them in their pockets. So they ended up playing "The Boxer" at least a dozen times a night. "The Boxer" was coming out of their ears but it was also putting sushi in their mouths.

I don't know that it is any less a horror story. For most of his life, Jovi appears to have been hounded by that horror. He was a gifted musician, and meticulous to a fault. His friends have no end of stories to tell about how during practice he would refuse to let go of a phrase or line whose nuance he thought hadn't been caught right. He played bass for several bands, the most well-known of which are Grupong Pendong and the revived Asin. He played session in recordings as well.

All of which brought a living, but barely. Not all musicians in this music-blessed, or cursed, country, become Martin Nievera or Sharon Cuneta and fetch an income like theirs. Most have to put in long nights to put food on the table. Having a brood to support, Jovi tried taking a day job, which was to manage a car repair shop. Alas, he could not thrill to the humming of engines, he could only revel in the clash of cymbals—or the throbbing of a low bass amid the strains of strained voices.

I don't know if he kept his day job. I do know he never gave up his night job, which was more than a job. It was his life. I saw him last only a month or so ago playing with a small group in Bistro. I don't know who else he played with, and where else he did. But I know this: Amid the anxiety and frustration and dark nights of the soul, Jovi chose to remain a musician. He chose to be a musician. And if the horde that gathered at his wake last Sunday, and who will continue to gather at his wake till tonight, has anything to say, it was the best choice of all. You can't have a better, or fuller, life than playing music.

All horror stories have happy endings too.

My friend Lito, though has every reason to be assailed by a sublime sense of loss, captures everyone's feelings by putting it in this sublime way:

"But who's going to sing 'Helter Skelter' now?"

* * *

Jovi Abella will be cremated tomorrow morning at the Manila Crematorium. Monday night, 70s Bistro will host a benefit concert for him. If you love music—or musicians—be there.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Senate condemnation of coup better late than never

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT is not surprising that President Macapagal-Arroyo would nurse a big *tampo* with the business community. All throughout the Oakwood mutiny, GMA received calls of support from various leaders around the world such as Indonesian President Megawati (who called her no less than twice), Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and the Sultan of Brunei. In her car phone she got a call from US President Bush, who congratulated her for her decisive handling of the mutiny and reiterated his desire to come for a visit this October. But as GMA put it, the business community was more worried about the negative perception of the state of rebellion she declared and its effects on the business climate, and was preoccupied with government's addressing the gripes of the rebels, but at no time did it condemn the mutiny. "Where were you when I needed you?" GMA asked the businessmen, stressing that she defended the republic "all by myself."

Last Tuesday, over a week later, Megawati faced the problem of a car bomb ripping through the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, killing a number of people and wounding scores of others. It was GMA's turn to express sympathy and support.

* * *

The Senate held a caucus last Monday to discuss the resolution filed by six administration senators calling for deferment of the hearings on the failed mutiny. The six senators argued that the primary business of the State is to stabilize the situation and protect itself and its institutions, including the Senate, and that reforms could wait while the top military leaders cut the roots and tentacles of the rebellion. But how can they do this when they are tied up by the hearings? the six senators asked. Many in the media supported that resolution, noting that even in the 9/11 bombings in the United States, the US Congress first closed ranks and supported Bush's anti-terrorism drive, and only much later conducted hearings into the whys and wherefores of terrorism. Moreover, it's crazy that both the Senate and the House are conducting separate investigations parallel to that of the Feliciano Commission, whose members have expressed distress over the possibility that the three separate bodies will arrive at different conclusions.

* * *

That deferment resolution lost in the Senate since obviously some opposition senators were keener on highlighting the weaknesses of the Macapagal administration than upholding the national interest. But one good offshoot is that even if it came eight days late, the Senate finally got around to condemning the mutiny. Better late than never. In fact there were two resolutions: one signed by 12 senators condemning "in the strongest terms possible the methods resorted to" by the mutineers to ventilate their grievances; the other signed by seven senators (the six cited above, plus Sen. Robert Barbers), condemning the mutiny and directly calling it "an attempt to overthrow the government" through a coup d'etat.

* * *

Investigators are busy piecing together various parts of the mutiny. Aside from the Cardenas and Laarni Enriquez residences which authorities say were used as staging areas, there appears to be another one in Makati which is not well-known. Reports indicate that some suites in the Pacific Plaza condominium building along Ayala Avenue, just across from Rustan's, were also used by the rebels prior to the mutiny to take showers, change clothes, sleep, etc. Evidently the rebels have expensive tastes, but whose units are those?

* * *

Sen. Robert Barbers made good his pledge to report out last Monday Senate Committee Report No. 237, formerly Report No. 66, hammered out by the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs which he chairs, the blue ribbon chaired by Joker Arroyo and the defense and security committee chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. Barbers pointed out that the committees had investigated the alleged involvement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his men in illegal drug transactions, kidnap for ransom, summary execution, smuggling and other activities for many months, and that the report had long been awaited by the media and the public, citing particularly the three columns of INQUIRER's Isagani Cruz clamoring for its release.

* * *

In his strongly worded sponsorship speech, Barbers stressed that the 100-page report recommends that the Department of Justice pursue an investigation into the "possible liability" of former PNP chief Lacson and two of his key officers (one of whom passed away, a victim of an assassination), and that Lacson, as PAOCTF head, be held accountable "for neglect of duty under the doctrine of command responsibility." Barbers argued that the PAOCTF "miserably failed" in its mission to counteract organized drug cartels and that "the nation's drug problem deteriorated severely during the watch of the PAOCTF," so that now it is confronted by the prospect of "narco-politics" looming large. He lamented, however, that despite its significant findings, which are supported by the majority of the members of the three committees, the report has been "a victim of the political intramurals in this chamber" that followed the aborted Senate coup in June 2002.

Barbers' courageous, long-awaited sponsorship speech, however, did not signify the end of the problem. Lacson moved that same afternoon to recommit it to the three committees as he claimed he has evidence to rebut the issues raised in the report. But even his opposition allies such as Sen. Aquilino Pimentel wanted to know why Lacson failed to present the evidence during the last two years ago and wants to do it now when a recommitment to committee spells virtual death for any report. The ensuing tension prompted Magsaysay to move to hold off plenary voting on the report.

Three old heroes

YOUNG BLOOD

Reyno B. Almonia

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I GREW up with old folks, and I found them fun to be with They love to dig memories of their past, especially the events that shaped our history. And I love listening to their stories.

Maybe this is the reason why I am a bit of a historian. I love reading old dusty books about some aspects of the history of great peoples and events. It is like watching a movie whose story I can share later with my friends. In this sense I am like the old folks that I liked.

Three of them opened my eyes to the history of the Filipino people. They were all veterans of the most horrible war mankind has ever fought, World War II.

When I was still in Grade 5, my Lolo made me his buddy, a relationship that we maintained until I finished 2nd year high school. He was always going to this remote place to discuss some things with another war veteran, a colonel of the USAFFE who was helping other veterans secure the papers that would make them American citizens. This would not only entitle them to receive a pension but also to travel and stay in the United States. For my Lolo, becoming an American and living in America were an obsession, but all those years I wondered how he could ever be transformed into an American physically.

Those four years of traveling to that remote place didn't help make my Lolo's dreams and aspirations come true. He died and he was buried with his precious memories, without even being recognized as a war veteran. He was not given a soldier's burial.

But to me, my Lolo with all his tales about guerrilla warfare, was a hero. So every time I visit his grave, I whistle the taps.

In my junior year in college, I took part in an immersion activity that brought me in contact with some destitute *lolos* and *lolas*. These old folks were being cared for by Mother Theresa's Missionary Sisters of Charity.

One day, I was assigned to cut the hair of the *lolos*. It was a piece of cake; all I had to do was snip away until their heads were almost bald. That was when I met another *lolo*, who happened to be another war veteran. We quickly became friends and I loved to hear his own stories about the war.

He was an enlisted USAFFE soldier. He knew his American commander's name and other details pertinent to his service in the US military. He narrated to me that captured Japanese soldiers were simply thrown on to the truck by the Americans who were big and strong. He also told me that the American soldiers had a kind of soap that produced suds even in sea water.

When our immersion was done, I had the feeling that he too would die in despair like my Lolo, without becoming an American citizen. He could hardly fight for what was due him as a veteran since he had been abandoned by his own children after he went blind and became broke.

More recently, I met another war veteran. He showed me documents issued after the Philippines had been liberated and these were official papers from the US State Defense and the White House. Still, he had not received anything from either the American or the Philippine government. He can no longer follow up his claims for he is almost blind, poor and illiterate. Not very long ago, he was beaten up by teenagers inside his nipa hut, his only possession.

When I talked to him, he expressed his bitterness and disappointment about not getting his due after fighting for the motherland. Had he been younger, he said, he would surely have killed the teenagers that ransacked his house and attacked him. He said those young men probably didn't know that it was his unit that protected their parents during the war.

I wish that I could do something someday to help these unrecognized veterans of World War II. If I pass the bar a few years from now, I can extend free legal counsel and assistance to these *lolos*. Their days are numbered and they deserve to be given their benefits fast. And when they go, they should be given a soldier's funeral as my beloved Lolo wished during his last days.

Reyno B. Almonia, 26, is taking up law at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

Eight women a day

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A WOMAN friend tells this story about the first (and last?) time she went for a Pap smear. The test, developed decades ago to detect abnormal cells in the cervix which could indicate cervical cancer, requires a woman to lie on her back and place her feet up on stirrups. And then, while she's lying there with her legs spread-eagled, a doctor will hold her vagina open with a speculum then insert a cotton swab to swipe her cervix for cells which will then be examined under a microscope.

My friend, who is already of a "certain age," also happens to be a virgin. Just undressing in front of the nurse was already quite an ordeal, even if she had on a hospital gown (which of course could not be made to stay closed at the back). But getting her to open her legs and put her feet up on stirrups was another question. "I just froze," she recalls, and no matter how much the nurse and doctor tried to pull her legs apart, they just would not budge. "I finally had enough and said I was getting out of there," she laughs.

As they said of the mammogram: "Only a man would invent such a procedure!" If women were in charge, I would bet they'd come up with a procedure that would allow for the "harvest" of cervical cells that would at least give women a semblance of dignity and poise, and would not require them to lie there, helpless, with their most intimate parts exposed while a cold steel apparatus is inserted into them. Sounds too much like medical rape.

But then, until that day comes, it seems undergoing a Pap smear (or similar tests) is the only way women can have themselves checked for cervical cancer, which is easily detectable and curable, but which remains a "hidden" cancer even if it is the second most common form of cancer among women.

* * *

DR. MARICAR E. Guevarra cites statistics from the Department of Health that indicate that "cervical cancer kills up to *eight women* in the Philippines *every day*. That's one woman dying every three hours!" Although breast cancer ranks first in terms of overall incidence, Dr. Guevarra says cervical cancer "ranks first in terms of mortality, meaning that a woman with cervical cancer has a much lower chance of surviving the disease than a woman with breast cancer." The reason for this alarming statistic is that, says Dr. Guevarra, "in the Philippines, the disease is caught very late. According to Dr. Raffy Tomacruz of the Philippine General Hospital… seven to eight out of the estimated 10 cases of cervical cancer that they see every week would be inoperable."

"What makes the situation even more frustrating is that cervical cancer is fully preventable," adds Dr. Guevarra. "As you stated, the cancer, in 99.7 percent of cases, is caused by a sexually transmitted virus (HPV) that can easily be detected. Pre-cancerous lesions are detectable and curable as well. It takes an average of 10-15 years after infection before cervical cancer manifests—and yet so many women continue to die from it!"

* * *

DR. Guevarra, who is the clinical associate for Macare Medicals Inc., which locally distributes the Digene HPV DNA, says technology to detect both HPV and cervical cancer is available. "The 'DNA with Pap,' which combines the Pap Smear with a DNA exam for the 13 high-risk strains of HPV, was recently approved by the US FDA as a primary screening tool for women 30 years old and above. The test can guarantee almost 100-percent sensitivity and negative predictive value, and thus, assurance that significant disease has not been missed."

What this means, says Dr. Guevarra, is that women who test negative from this test "may not need to get tested again for three-five years," though a Pap smear every year or every two years may still be necessary "to detect other malignancies."

"Most women don't know about this. Most women don't even know what a Pap smear is or, if they do, don't know when and how often they're supposed to have it done. And despite the prevalence of HPV (it's even more common than herpes), most people have never even heard of it," Dr. Guevara notes.

* * *

THERE is also the issue of "shame" and "stigma," Dr. Guevarra says, which was also mentioned in yesterday's column. "The fact that it is primarily caused by an STD makes cervical cancer more difficult to discuss than other cancers. Colleagues tell me that certain patients of theirs don't want to tell their family and friends that they have the disease for fear that they will be judged. Indeed, unlike with breast cancer, we don't see cervical cancer victims or survivors coming out in the open to speak about their experiences.

"Yet here lies the irony of it. A lot of cervical cancer victims are in fact monogamous. Many have only had one sexual partner their whole lives. Although promiscuity is a risk factor, intercourse with a sexually promiscuous partner or a partner who's had intercourse with a sexually promiscuous partner (and so on and on) are risk factors as well. The fact that HPV affects an estimated 75 percent of sexually active adults at one point in their lives should take care of the stigma because *anyone*, as long as he or she is or has been sexually active, *can* get infected. So anyone who is or has been sexually active *should* get screened."

In developed countries, says Dr. Guevarra, the number of women who developed cervical cancer and died from it has gone down drastically "precisely because of extensive media exposure and aggressive awareness campaigns that made women realize just how important routine screening is to their reproductive health. If only the media would give the same amount of attention to cervical cancer as they have to breast cancer, perhaps women would stop dying from this disease."

Remembering Ka Bert

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

DOES anyone remember Felixberto Olalia Sr.? Does the younger generation of workers know who Ka Bert is? What about the youth who are in search of models? Would Ka Bert resonate with them?

Many do remember: those who were in the militant labor sector and had the privilege of listening to his voice during the terrifying days of the Marcos dictatorship. Ka Bert's speeches were described by a historian as representative of "the country's long tradition of radical street oratory."

But Ka Bert was much, much more than all his mesmerizing speeches combined. He was an icon of his time and many activists were privileged to catch the flying embers from this man during the fiery sunset of his life.

Of course, he was also the father of labor lawyer Rolando Olalia who was brutally slain, along with his driver, in 1986.

Ka Bert was dying and under house arrest when a group of human rights activists gathered at Plaza Roma in front of the Manila Cathedral to fast for the freedom of political detainees. Ka Bert had been a political detainee himself several times in the past. His detention under martial law was in fact what hastened the deterioration of his health. He was frail and in his 70s when Marcos put him behind bars.

I remember his last words being played again and again at Plaza Roma the day before he died. "*Huwag kayong mabibigo. Magtagumpay kayo…*" Do not lose heart. Triumph, by all means…

Two days ago, on Aug. 5, Ka Bert would have been 100 years old. To celebrate his birth anniversary, the Ka Bert Olalia Commemorative Society held a feast at the University of the Philippines School of Labor and Industrial Relations to celebrate his life and his cause as a nationalist. Present were the Who's Who in the labor and related sectors and Ka Bert's wife, Isabel "Ka Chabeng" Olalia and the younger generation of Olalias. Here was a feast of remembering for three generations of activists.

Who was Felixberto Olalia Sr.?

Ka Bert was born in Tarlac on Aug. 3, 1903. He landed his first job in a Manila shoe factory as a *chinelero*, a maker of slippers. It was the 1920s and he was 17. The teenager awoke to a world of cheap labor and deplorable working conditions in the city during the American Commonwealth. In no time he became active in the Union de Chineleros y Zapateros de Filipinos, becoming its president from 1925 to 1945. He led a demonstration seeking to shorten working hours from 12 to 8 hours.

Ka Bert later became the secretary general of the Katipunang Anakpawis sa Pilipinas, working side by side with the likes of Crisanto Evangelista, the father of the Philippine trade union movement. When World War II broke out, Ka Bert and his colleagues formed the League for National Liberation and joined the Allied Forces' intelligence bureau. He also became commander of the Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) in Manila.

After the war, Ka Bert co-founded the Katipunan ng mga Kaisahang Manggagawa (KKM). The group disbanded after he was arrested and imprisoned in 1951 for subversion. After his release in 1954, he founded the Confederation of Labor in the Philippines. In 1959 he formed the National Federation of Labor Unions (Naflu). He also became the chair of the Katipunan ng Manggagawang Pilipino.

In the 1960s, Ka Bert kept on with organizing and lobbying work. He was instrumental in the passing of pro-labor laws in Congress, such as the Magna Carta of Labor, the Women and Child Labor Law, the Minimum Wage Law and the creation of an agrarian court. In 1970 he was sent to China as an emissary to help establish diplomatic ties.

Ka Bert was no stranger to prison life. He was back in the slammer shortly after martial law was declared in 1972. He was released after more than four months.

In 1980, Ka Bert founded the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), the red-flag-waving throng we see on the streets on Labor Day, the giant labor movement that has been vigorously penetrating and organizing the labor sector these past two decades.

Ka Bert was arrested for inciting to sedition and conspiracy to commit rebellion on Aug. 13, 1982. He was put in solitary confinement despite his recurring rheumatic heart disease. He was made to sleep on the cold cement floor. He caught pneumonia and was brought to the Camp Crame Hospital and later to the V. Luna Hospital. Growing weaker by the day, Ka Bert was put under house arrest. On Dec. 4, 1983, four months after his prison ordeal, Ka Bert died.

The day before he died, he sent a message to the fasters for freedom. "How can I describe Philippine society?" he asked. "It's one big detention cell," he said, referring to the state of affairs under the Marcos dictatorship.

I find it strange that until now Ka Bert has not been given a hallowed place in the Bantayog ng mga Bayani where hundreds of names of heroes and martyrs of the martial law regime are engraved. Every year, a new batch is examined and evaluated by a team. Those who are found worthy are ushered into the hall and wall of remembrance.

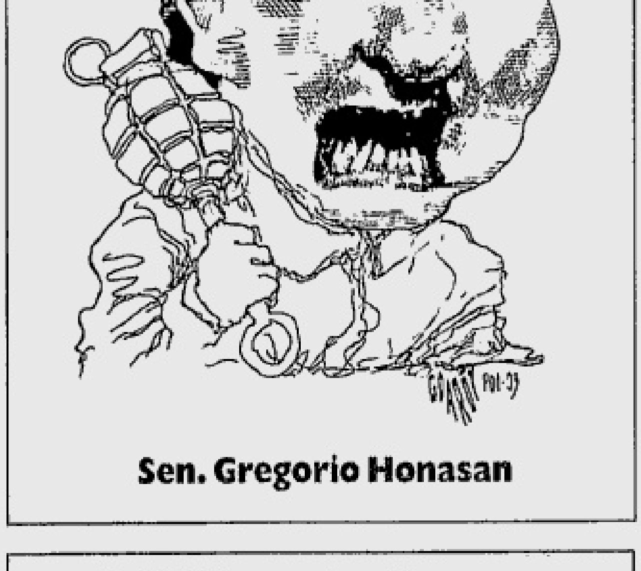
The inclusion of a few may have been the subject of subdued debate but, unlike the controversial National Artist Award, the Bantayog ng mga Bayani has been spared harsh griping. If you ask me, the less famous, the better.

Here's something straight from Ka Bert: "*Walang pinakabanal at dakilang gawain sa balat ng lupa, kundi ang maglingkod sa manggagawa.*" (There is no work more sacred and more noble on the face of the earth than to serve the toiling masses.)

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

IN THE NEWS



Sen. Gregorio Honasan

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Senior citizen's card becoming useless

RECENTLY, I was a witness to the pitiful pleadings of an old, withered and visibly poor woman who was practically begging a young drugstore clerk to let her buy even a few tablets of the medicine she desperately needed. She was, at the same time, also asking the disrespectful man why they were always out of stock every time she used her senior citizen's card.

It was a pathetic scene. The septuagenarian wanted to live long but was obviously short of cash; while the clerk, maybe acting on instructions, was giving the poor woman facetious answers as she endured his taunts.

The incident happened in Las Piñas and we can be sure that it was not an isolated case. I wonder how many times this heartbreaking scene is replicated all over the country every day.

A few months ago, I also overheard an elderly man wondering aloud why drugstores suddenly run out of the medicine every time he used his senior citizen's card. He added that when the drug was available by some miracle, he would be made to wait for a long time before he could make a purchase.

Drugstore owners who refuse to sell medicines to senior citizens and those who use the "out-of-stock" story because of the discount should rot in jail not only for making a mockery of the law but also for putting the health of senior citizens at risk. *Tatanda rin kayo!*

Maybe, the Las Piñas city government can do something about these unscrupulous drugstore owners because it seems the senior citizen's card is fast becoming a useless piece of paper. Las Piñas Mayor Nene Aguilar should look into this. The national government, particularly the Department of Trade and Industry, should also put pressure on giant, profit-hungry multinational pharmaceutical companies to lower their prices.

—ARTHUR R. BUENASEDA,
413 Lopez St., Barangay Don Galo,
Parañaque City

Uphold rights of children in detention

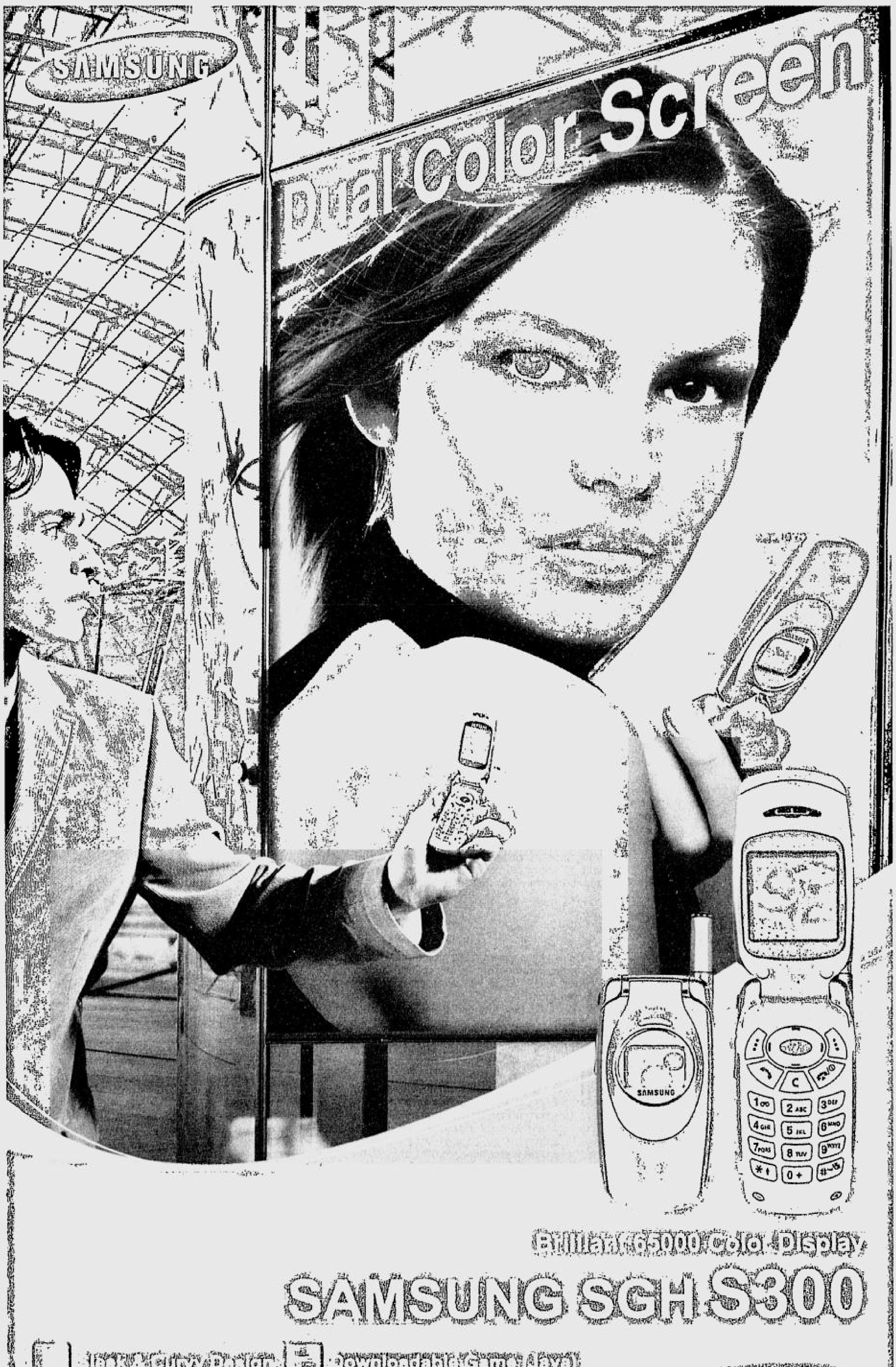
THE PLIGHT of many child detainees is a great cause of concern for me and other members of the international community. As a member of Amnesty International, may I remind Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong to order the immediate and impartial investigation of any allegation of torture or ill-treatment of children under arrest or in detention. Any person found responsible for such gross violation should be brought to justice.

International regulations mandate that there should be separate facilities for children and adult detainees. Conditions of detention, including bedding, food and hygiene, must be in keeping with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners.

Also in conformity with international standards, parents, guardians or social workers should be immediately informed of a child's arrest and of his/her right to have access to legal counsel through the relevant judicial authority. Many tragedies would be avoided if the pre-trial detention of children were limited to very exceptional circumstances, once again, in conformity with international standards.

May I also remind the justice secretary that international law strictly prohibits the sentencing of children to death whatever the crime.

—ALBERT BESSE,
Route de Montluc,
87500 Saint Yrieix, France



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The shoulders we stand on

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"MISS Lim, Miss Lim, do you remember me?"

Early enough, as a child, I learned to associate that greeting with my mother's former students. I used to think they probably numbered in the millions, considering how we seemed to run into them everywhere, in the market, in banks, at restaurants, on all kinds of social occasions.

My mother started teaching as "Miss Lim" and stayed on for about 15 more years, first in the Quiapo Anglo-Chinese School and then at St. Stephen's, both schools for Chinese-Filipinos. Because she was part of a then rare breed of young Chinay *colegialas* who was fluent in both Chinese and English, my mother was assigned quite a few courses, including English, math and home economics. Her students weren't quite into the millions but I'm sure they reached several hundreds over the years.

Now I find myself in a similar situation, running into my former students in all kinds of places. Because I've taught for some 20 years now, and because my professional background is so mixed, which means I've handled a variety of subjects here and overseas—anthropology, public health, gender and sexuality, even veterinary medicine—I do run into former students even more frequently than my mother.

I once boarded a plane in Tokyo and was greeted by a flight attendant, "Sir Tan, welcome!" Another time while waiting at Manila's airport for a flight to Puerto Princesa, a man approached me and said he was my former student and that his wife had requested him to make sure I got on the flight!

Most encounters are brief and fleeting but others may involve long conversations, sometimes over a bottle of beer or two. Some encounters can be quite emotional. I've met former students who were so excited they gave me bear hugs and squealed in delight, "Do you remember me?" On such occasion, skinny old me wanted to grunt back, "I would if you'd let go so I can see who you are."

Writing for the INQUIRER has definitely increased the chances of "meeting up" with former students, at least by e-mail. Every now and then, one of them writes in, to comment on a column and to tell me they took one or some of my subjects "way back." Some keep a running correspondence, often alerting me to issues that matter to them, as parents, as business people, as Filipinos.

There are funny stories as well associated with all these encounters. One time I was checking in for a flight and the woman behind the counter told me she had taken one of my courses. Absentmindedly, I asked if it had been the "sex course," referring to Anthro 187, a Sex and Culture subject that I handled for a few years, and which, you can imagine, was a rather popular course. Well, not for this woman. She was obviously quite offended, giving me an "Excooooose me" look. I've become more careful since then, allowing students to tell me what course they took.

Former students remind me how fast life moves on, especially when I can't remember their names, which is most of the time these days. And in an even more telling case, some time back I asked a new batch of students to tell me why they enrolled in my course, to which one young girl volunteered, "Sir, because my mother was your student and she told me to take you."

On a more serious note, the best occasions are those where you find former students are now peers. During a recent roundtable conference on a particularly complex public health issue, I found myself beaming with pride as participants—all acknowledged experts in their field—introduced themselves because a third of them turned out to be my former students.

I am most touched when approached by students whom I pushed quite hard in my classes (or, among graduate students, with their thesis or dissertation) but who still come back and actually thank me for not allowing them to take the easy way out. Surprisingly, quite a few of them come back asking for a letter of recommendation for a job or for graduate work and even if they got relatively low grades from me, I reserve the best of my letters for them, pointing out their tenacity and willingness to learn, and their ability to overcome all obstacles.

Former students tend to sustain me, especially during the times when I feel like teaching has become tedious. Academic institutions have their own share of mean-spirited people and early this year I was about ready to throw in the towel, totally demoralized from harassment. Word spread about my plans but former students began to call or write in, urging me to reconsider. One student's advice was especially sagacious: "Don't even bother to fight, sir. Staying on and doing what you've been doing all these years will be enough to show you're right."

These encounters with former students, especially when they brim with wisdom, remind me of the cycles of teaching and learning. I think of the teachers who made a difference in my life. Among the photographs I keep on my work table is one of my doctoral adviser, Sjaak van der Geest of the University of Amsterdam.

Then, too, recently I had two rather unusual reunions with former mentors. Both occasions were symposia where I had to give a talk, and my teachers were among the audience, there to listen. I had mixed feelings knowing. On one hand, I did feel quite proud that they, the best of my teachers now well into retirement, had gone out of their way to come to my talk. But I was terribly humbled as well, realizing I still felt awed, and awkward in their presence.

To Dr. Teodulio Topacio Jr. and Dr. Virgilio Esguerra and all the great "Sirs" and "Ma'ms" in my life, this is an opportunity for me to say what I should have when we met: "*Marami pong salamat.* If each succeeding generation is able to do more, it is because there are shoulders to stand on, allowing us to look further afield. You let me stand on your shoulders, now others will have my shoulders." And I mean that, arthritic as those shoulders may become.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Indonesia links Jakarta, Bali bombings

JAKARTA—Indonesian police said Wednesday the car bomb that ripped through a Jakarta hotel contained the same cocktail of explosives as the Bali bombs, as fears grew of a new wave of terrorism across Southeast Asia.

The parallels with last year's attack on the resort island reinforced suspicions Tuesday's bombing of the JW Marriott Hotel, which left up to 14 people dead and 150 injured, was carried out by the Jemaah Islamiya group.

Singapore's Straits Times newspaper quoted an anonymous operative of the al-Qaida linked Islamic militant organization as saying the hotel attack was a "bloody warning to Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

"This is a message for her and all our enemies that if they execute any of our Muslim brothers, we will continue this campaign of terror in Indonesia and the region," the operative told the newspaper.

The warning was an apparent reference to the ongoing trials of JI militants over last October's Bali attack, which left 202 people dead. The first verdict, a possible death sentence, is to be handed down Thursday.

Indonesia's top detective Erwin Mappaseng said a body had been found inside the Toyota "Kijang" van which triggered the blast which tore through the lobby and ground floor restaurant of the 33-story American-run hotel.

He declined to say whether a suicide attacker was involved, as in Bali, but he said the explosives used in the two attacks were the same and the modus operandi of the bombers was similar.

"From the modus, the materials and others, there are similarities," Mappaseng told journalists. He said traces of black powder, potassium chloride and TNT, all ingredients used in Bali, were found at the Marriott site.

He said police had also drawn up sketches of the last known buyer of the van and one based on the body found in the wreckage.

There was confusion Wednesday over the exact death toll. Indonesian Red Cross put the toll at 14 dead, while the health ministry said only 10 people died. Australia said it had been informed as many as 16 were killed.

One foreigner, a Dutch executive of Rabobank, has been confirmed among the dead and several others are among the injured.

The attack on a venue popular with the American community in the heart of Jakarta's business and embassy district is a huge blow to the government, which has spent the nine months since Bali trying to repair the country's image.

The local press strongly criticized the government for failing to prevent the new attack.

"The writing was on the wall that the terrorists, whoever they are, would strike again sooner or later," said the Jakarta Post, blaming the government "for its laid-back attitude toward the threat of terrorism."

In an attempt to address criticism and shore up confidence in the already-fragile economy, the government said it would unveil tough new security measures later Wednesday. *AFP*

Bali suspect defiant on eve of verdict

DENPASAR, Indonesia—Bali bomb suspect Amrozi remained defiant a day ahead of a possible death sentence for his involvement in last year's carnage, declaring Wednesday he did not fear the penalty that awaited him.

"Why should I be afraid?" Amrozi asked AFP with a confident smile as he was led out of a court here.

The 41-year-old village mechanic is due Thursday to be the first of more than 30 accused on trial for the October blasts that killed 202 people in Bali to receive a verdict, and prosecutors have asked for the death penalty.

Amrozi appeared in court on Wednesday to testify in the trial of another bomb suspect, Mubarok alias, Hutomo Pamungkas.

But in a typically brazen performance from the man dubbed the "laughing bomber," Amrozi refused to do so.

When asked why he would not testify, Amrozi replied to the judges: "Because I can withdraw, can't I?"

Pressed further, he said: "So that it (the hearing) can proceed quickly."

The laws allow a witness to refuse to testify if he was a defendant in the same case.

Amrozi even dismissed attempts by the judges to read out the clauses that allowed him to refuse to testify, and then asked to leave the courtroom when prosecutors moved to read the police report into his questioning.

"I better withdraw so that I do not hear it... the fact is that even without being questioned, my signature is there. I do not trust all of that," he said.

The report was read out without Amrozi in the court room.

Police say the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiya group staged the Bali bomb attacks on two popular nightspots on Oct. 12 last year to avenge supposed Western oppression of Muslims in Afghanistan and elsewhere. *AFP*

Bhutto, spouse found guilty of corruption

ISLAMABAD—A Swiss judge has found former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, her jailed husband Asif Zardari and a Swiss lawyer guilty of money laundering in a case involving two Swiss firms nine years ago.

Bhutto, Zardari and Jens Schlegelmilch were guilty of arranging an illegal six percent commission worth $12 million for awarding a customs inspection contract to Swiss firms Societe Generale de Surveillance and Cotecna, according a copy of the July 30 judgment.

The finding is the first foreign conviction of Pakistan's former first couple, who have been fending off a raft of corruption charges at home since Bhutto's second dismissal as prime minister in 1996. The pair always dismissed the charges as politically motivated.

Swiss investigating magistrate Daniel Devaud said his inquiry had established that Bhutto and Zardari were paid some $11,997,423 by SGS and Cotecna in 1994 and laundered the funds in two Swiss bank accounts, Barclays Geneva and UBS Geneva, Devaud wrote in the 15-page judgement.

He awarded Bhutto and Zardari a suspended six-month prison sentence and ordered them to repay the Pakistani government the full $11,997,423.

The Swiss judge also ordered them to forfeit to Islamabad a diamond necklace purchased by Bhutto with funds from the Swiss accounts for 117,000 British pounds in August 1997.

A Pakistani court convicted Bhutto and Zardari in the same case in 1999, but the Supreme Court overturned the finding two years later, alleging political bias.

The apex court ordered a re-trial by a state accountability court, which was due to be heard in April last year.

Bhutto, who has lived in self-imposed exile in London and Dubai since 1998, refused to return to Pakistan for the re-trial and was convicted of absconding.

Zardari, a former senator and minister in his wife's cabinet, has been in jail since Bhutto's 1996 dismissal on criminal as well as corruption charges. *AFP*

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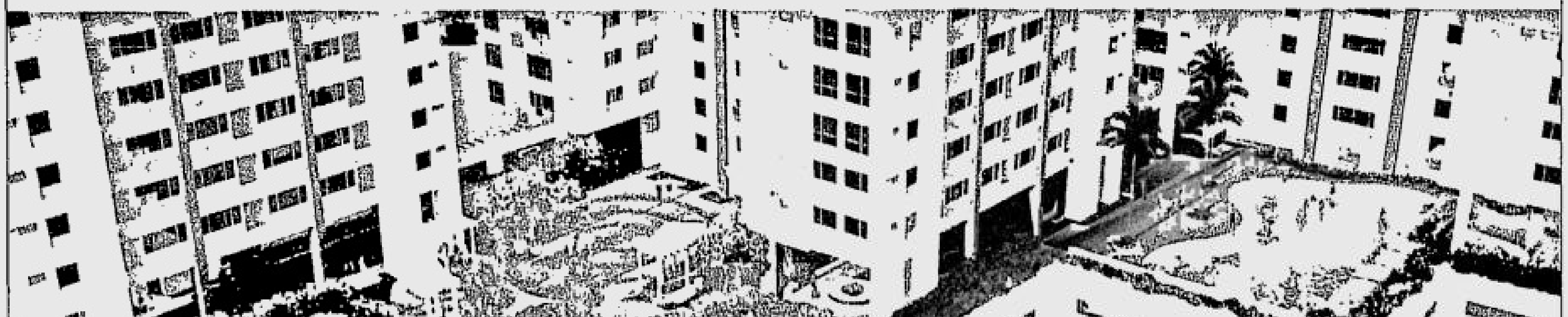

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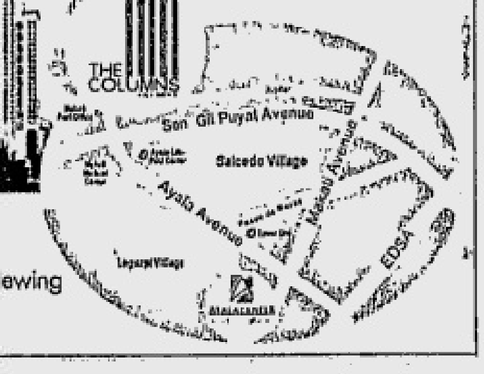

US Episcopalians back gay bishop, stir furor

MINNEAPOLIS—US Episcopalian bishops voted on Tuesday to install the church's first openly gay bishop, triggering a protest by conservative opponents who have threatened to split the global Anglican denomination.

After an 11th-hour delay on Monday prompted by allegations of sexual misconduct against New Hampshire bishop-elect Gene Robinson, church leaders cleared him and 62 of the 107 bishops voted to approve his election. Forty-five voted against.

Conservative Anglicans, representing more than one-quarter of the global 77-million-member denomination, issued a statement expressing regret at Robinson's installation and signed by church leaders from Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America and followers from England, India and elsewhere.

"We expect that primates of the Communion will be meeting soon to consider what action to take. Dioceses and parishes in the United States who wish to remain loyal to the Anglican Communion will also be considering their position in the coming weeks," the statement from a group called the Anglican Mainstream said.

Several conservative bishops and delegates retired to a church across from the convention center and said they would plot strategy.

Thanking his supporters and pledging to work toward reconciliation, Robinson told reporters, "I am proud to be in a church which works to be a safe place for all of God's children."

ROBINSON

The allegations that delayed Monday's vote by the bishops—the last of three hurdles to Robinson's confirmation—focused on a Vermont parishioner's charge that Robinson had sexually harassed him during a conference a few years ago.

Questions also arose about whether Robinson, a 56-year-old divorced father of two, bore responsibility for the pornographic links to a Web site for a group for troubled teenagers he helped found.

"In both allegations it is my conclusion that there is no necessity to pursue further investigation and no reason on these grounds to prevent bishops of jurisdiction from going forward with their voting," Massachusetts Bishop Gordon Scruton, who led the inquiry, told the bishops.

Scruton said after an interview with parishioner David Lewis that his description of the touching showed it was nonsexual and he declined to press his case.

As to the Web site for the group Outright, it was created four years after Robinson left the group.

New York Bishop Mark Sisk earlier described people attending the convention as suffering a combination of "shock, surprise and befuddlement" at the allegations.

Rev. David Anderson, head of the conservative American Anglican Council and a Robinson opponent, denied any last-minute conspiracy to undermine Robinson's candidacy.

Conservatives in the 2.3-million-member US church have threatened a split over either Robinson's installation or another proposal to allow clergy to bless same-sex marriages.

The rift also extends to divisions within the 77-million-member Anglican Communion, which led to last month's withdrawal in Britain of gay Canon Jeffrey John as bishop.

Several bishops spoke in support of Robinson, with Thomas Shaw of Massachusetts declaring that his consecration would bring in new, youthful members: "We have here a wonderful evangelistic tool to strengthen the life of the church."

Others spoke of the impact on the wider church, and about the authority of the Bible in the matter of homosexuality.

"We have been and are willing to remain in dialogue and communion with you so long as you are willing to remain with us. However if you break from the rest of the Anglican Communion we will not follow you," Florida Bishop John Howe said.

Rarely has the church's general convention rejected an elected bishop, with only nine candidates failing to gain approval since the 18th century, the last in 1934. *Reuters*

Ex-Zambia leader charged with stealing $40M

LUSAKA—Police arrested Zambian former President Frederick Chiluba on Tuesday after a prolonged anti-corruption probe and charged him with stealing more than $40 million during his decade of rule.

"He has finally been arrested, charged and bonded (bailed)," Chiluba's defense lawyer Robert Simeza told reporters.

CHILUBA

President Levy Mwanawasa, who succeeded Chiluba, has launched the biggest crackdown on corruption since Zambia gained independence from Britain in 1964, prosecuting Chiluba, several former ministers and senior government officials.

The head of Zambia's anti-corruption task force, Mark Chona, said Chiluba's indictment had been amended to 96 counts of theft from an initial 48 counts and that the charges now involved more than $40 million, up from $29.7 million.

Chona told reporters Chiluba was jointly charged on all the offenses with ex-intelligence chief Xavier Chungu and three former senior Treasury officials.

Chiluba retired in 2001 after holding office for the maximum two five-year terms as president allowed by the constitution.

"They are saying he (Chiluba) stole this money from the Ministry of Finance together with the four officials," Simeza said, adding they were accused of transferring it to a secret account in Britain operated by Chungu.

Simeza said Chiluba was calm and confident.

"He feels he will be cleared once and for all. It is not possible for a president to steal money which is being transferred from the Ministry of Finance to an account for intelligence service operations," the defense lawyer said.

Simeza said Chiluba's hearing, scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, had been put back to Aug. 29 because the magistrate allotted the task was not immediately available. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

US civilian killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON—US contractors working in Iraq said on Tuesday they would examine even more closely the security of their employees there after an American civilian contractor was killed by an anti-tank mine. "We are monitoring the situation very, very carefully. We are taking every precaution. This is a dangerous place to work in," said Alison Abbott, spokesperson for Bechtel, a California engineering firm working in Iraq for the US government. The civilian killed on Tuesday near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit worked for engineering firm Kellogg Brown & Root under a contract with the US military. He was believed to be the first US civilian contractor killed in Iraq since Saddam was toppled. *Reuters*

US warns airports

WASHINGTON—US officials on Tuesday warned airports to step up scrutiny of passengers' electronic items amid renewed militant threats, but said there were no plans to raise the national threat level. The advisory about possible new ways to conceal explosives in electronic devices was the latest of several measures taken to tighten security at US airports in the wake of last week's warning that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network was planning new suicide hijackings and bombings in the United States or abroad. *Reuters*

Europe bakes

PARIS—Europe continued to swelter under a punishing heat wave Wednesday as Portugal called in Nato to help combat deadly forest fires and France recorded its highest temperatures in more than half a century. Thermometers in parts of Croatia, France, Germany, Spain and Portugal hit the symbolic 40-degree Celsius mark (104 degrees Fahrenheit) on Tuesday, with no sign of relief until at least the start of next week and temperatures feared to soar to 42 Celsius in parts of Portugal. "The current heat is totally exceptional—even for August," said Dominique Escale of France's national weather service Meteo France, which said the summer was the hottest on record in the country since 1949. The searing heat has sparked devastating forest fires in Croatia, France, Spain, Italy and Portugal. Twelve have been killed in Portugal, 12 more in Spain and five others in France, four of them foreign holidaymakers. *AFP*

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4 cops in anti-gambling team fall in trap after Taiwanese's kidnap

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Four agents of the anti-illegal gambling Task Force Jericho of the Department of Interior and Local Government were arrested by police on Tuesday on charges of kidnapping a Taiwanese in Magalang, Pampanga.

Maj. Orlando Melchor, the Jericho team leader, was arrested together with PO2 Darius Salonga, agent Alvin Tolentino and a Chinese-Filipino asset in an entrapment operation at a shopping mall here.

The four men, interviewed at the Pampanga police headquarters before they were taken for an inquest to the city prosecutor's office on Tuesday night, denied kidnapping Taiwanese Wang Teng Fa or extorting money from him.

Melchor said Wang was an undocumented alien whom they tried to arrest. The four, however, did not say if arresting illegal aliens was part of their jobs as anti-gambling policemen.

Melchor claimed that he and his team coordinated the operation for the arrest of Wang with the local police.

That Wang was already in the custody of the DILG in Metro Manila was proof that he and his men did not kidnap the Taiwanese, Melchor told the INQUIRER.

A police source, however, said an accomplice of the Jericho agents brought Wang to the DILG later on Tuesday after learning that the operation was busted. Five other unidentified men were included in the complaint for kidnapping for ransom, according to the police source.

Magalang Mayor Pastor Guiao confirmed the kidnapping of Wang.

Guiao said the Taiwanese had maintained a watermelon plantation in the town for the last two years. He said the wife of Wang contacted a Filipino-Chinese businessman to help her report the kidnapping to the Magalang police.

The police source said Wang's wife reported that Melchor's team had demanded P300,000 for her husband's release. The ransom was used as "bait" during Tuesday's entrapment at the SM City shopping mall here.

According to the source, the agents committed a "serious violation" of the rules of engagement.

The purported arrest of Wang was not coordinated with the Bureau of Immigration or with the local police.

Second, the source said, the main task of Jericho was to go after people involved in illegal gambling and not after illegal aliens.

Task Force Jericho was formed after Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. vowed to put an end to jueteng in six months. His self-imposed deadline is to have lapsed last month. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cebu spared from mutiny effects, say tourism execs

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The July 27 Oakwood mutiny and the continuing jitters over talks of another coup attempt only had a slight effect on Cebu's tourism industry, the top tourism official here said.

Patria Aurora Roa, Department of Tourism director in Central Visayas (DOT-7) admitted that while small international meetings in some hotels here have been cancelled, she sought to assure that the failed rebellion did not adversely affect Cebu's tourism sector as much as it did Metro Manila's.

In fact, she added, there are even three chartered flights coming to Cebu from Japan this month due to the Obon week, an annual holiday week in Japan.

The JC International Asia Pacific Conference set in Cebu on Aug. 8 will still push through, she said. Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon would be the keynote speaker during the event.

Cebu also expects to see an increase in arrivals from Taiwan since the problem of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the area appeared to be under control following measures taken to prevent the entry of the disease in the country's airports.

Roa said she also believed that the bilateral air agreement between the governments of the Philippines and Vietnam, specifically giving landing rights for Cebu, would also benefit Cebu's tourism industry.

South Koreans also continued to patronize Cebu as their tourism destination. Korea, she said, has become the second biggest tourist market for Cebu and has enabled the sector to ride over the drop in arrivals from Japan.

The annual DOT report showed that Japan remains Cebu's top tourist market despite an overall decline of 18.36 percent.

Japanese arrivals posted an overall decline in 2002 but appeared headed for recovery as arrivals in December posted an increase. Records from DOT-7 showed that arrivals from Japan grew by 58.55 percent in December compared with the same month in 2001.

Japan accounted for 30.44 percent of total foreign tourist arrivals in Cebu in December 2002. South Korea came in second with 24.7 percent while the United States contributed about 10 percent during the same period last year.

The Cebu Investment Promotion Center (CIPC) also noted that Korean visitors registered an average growth rate of 126.5 percent during the period 1998 to 2001.

The number of Korean tourists increased from only less than 3,000 in 1998 to over 30,000 last year, data from CIPC showed.

This year, the number of Korean tourists went up to nearly 52,000 as of the end of October, based on a report prepared by DOT-7.

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Posters of escaped terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi keep a policeman in Davao City up on his feet on the lookout for anyone resembling the now famous face in the wanted posters.

OFWs alarmed over reports of junta, says OFW leader

A GROUP of overseas Filipino workers expressed alarm over reports they have been receiving from relatives and through e-mail in their foreign postings that a junta, or a 15-member National Recovery Council, is being planned by the brains of another plot to unseat the Macapagal administration.

In a statement, Noel Josue, head of the group Kaibigan ng mga OCWs Inc., said the threat of another coup persists because of the disappearance of Sen. Gregorio Honasan, tagged one of the brains in the July 27 mutiny of the Magdalo group of soldiers.

"That's why many OFWs communicate with me via e-mails, text messages and phone calls, asking about our national security. We feel the problem is not yet over," he said.

OFWs expressed concern over the welfare of their families they left behind in the country.

Josue condemned the threats of a military rule, asking the people and even movie producers not to glorify the treacherous acts of the mutineers through movies and by becoming fans of the rebel soldiers.

Josue said based on the communication he gets from OFWs, most overseas Filipinos are against a military junta.

"We would resist it, not support it," he said.

He said most OFWs he communicated with expressed opposition to a military-led junta.

Typhoid outbreak in Pangasinan takes 50 students ill

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—More than 50 students of the Calasiao National Comprehensive High School were reported to have been afflicted with typhoid fever since the outbreak was noted last Friday, health authorities here said.

Dr. Gesart de Vera, rural health officer, said the outbreak could have been caused by dirty food sold by eateries and ambulant vendors around the school compound and by a contaminated water supply.

Typhoid fever is caused by the bacteria *Salmonella typhi* and is transmitted to humans through contaminated food and beverage.

Most of the victims were taken to hospitals in the province.

De Vera said personnel of rural health units are going around the town to look for other victims. He said the clinics sent samples of the school's water supply to the Department of Health's regional office for bacteriological testing. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Traders urge cops to solve colleague's slay

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Council of Presidents of the Rotary Clubs o Negros Oriental and Siquij have asked the police and othe law enforcement agencies speed up their investigation the June 30 killing of the club' president in this city.

In a resolution signed on Saturday, the Rotary Council of Pre dents said the killing of Ramon Dy 47, a few hours after his installa tion as president of the Rota Club of Dumaguete, was a "das tardly act of individuals who d not have respect for human life."

Police are exploring several an gles in the killing but have not a nounced any suspects.

The resolution requested Mayor Agustin Perdices, Negros Orie tal Gov. George Arnaiz, the Na tional Bureau of Investigation ar other police agencies to spearhe and coordinate the investigati of the crime so that the culprit can be unmasked and prosecuted

The resolution also called all Rotarians to contribute som amount to the reward being raised by the family and friend of Dy to help in the early solutio of the crime.

Dy was returning home follow ing his installation as Rotary Clu president when three men accost ed him at the gate of his house Purok 2 of Barangay Batingue here and shot him while he w still inside his car. Dy, owner of a agricultural store here, died of gunshot wound in the chest an died at the Holy Child Hospita after about an hour.

Before he died, he told poli the names of people who migl have wanted him dead.

Supt. Constantino Barot Jr., Dumaguete police chief, refused, how ever, to reveal what Dy had said cept that the killing was most like triggered by a family dispute.

AFP gets land in John Hay for new soldiers' school

FOLLOWING the failed mutiny of the Magdalo group of soldiers in Makati City, the government appears to be exerting all efforts to appease the mutineers, including turning over a 30-hectare piece of property to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Department of National Defense.

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said it turned over the lot inside the Camp John Hay to be developed as site for a facility for higher learning for soldiers.

In a statement, the BCDA said it turned over the piece of property during rites held at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) attended by Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, and Rufo Colayco, BCDA chief executive officer.

Adan was quoted as saying the 30-hectare piece of property could accommodate a building big enough for 1,900 cadets.

In the same statement, Colayco was quoted as saying the planned institute would need land "so we are very pleased to make a contribution in the training of the finest officers in the country."

In a speech he delivered during the turnover rites at the PMA, Colayco said he continued to admire the PMA cadets for their "high degree of competence and remarkable idealism."

"It is our hope that this tradition of idealism in the academy will never change through the guidance of the (planned) institution," said Colayco.

In a letter addressed to the BCDA, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes expressed gratitude to the BCDA for the donated land.

Reyes was quoted as saying the planned institution for higher learning will be "in support of the continuing education and training programs of the PMA."

IT'S NOT a blood compact, but a pact that would donate 30 hectares of land in Camp John Hay for an institute for higher learning for soldiers. Signing the agreement are Rufo Colayco, CEO of the BCDA (seated at left), and PMA superintendent Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, representing the military.

PHOTO FROM BCDA

State of calamity declared in Puert

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY–Sangguniang Panlungsod Monday passed a resoluti declaring the entire city unde state of calamity and appropri ing P18.7 million from a P46 mi lion calamity fund for relief pr jects in affected areas.

Vice Mayor Lucilo "Cecil" Ba ron said in a press conferen that steady rains brought by t phoon "Harurot" last week an "Kabayan" this week destroye crops, livestock and roads.

Bayron said the city disast coordinating council was imme diately activated.

Bayron said P6.5 million the funds will be for road repa while P5.6 million will be fo the repair of other infrastru ture.

City administrator Agustin Re camora said several villages ha yet to report damages.

Bayron and other members the city legislative board visit different barangays that suffer from the typhoons. *Geraldfor Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Who killed Untoy Agaw?

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

UNTOY Agaw's body was meant to be found, and in a gruesome state. His killers made sure of it.

On April 18, his body was found not far from a military detachment in Oriental Mindoro. The 34-year-old Mangyan farmer had a gaping hack wound in the neck; he was hogtied and his mouth was stuffed with cloth. Some of the photos are too unsightly for publication.

The message was clear: be warned, more could follow. But who killed him? Why was he killed?

Untoy was only one of four Mangyan victims in a series of abductions and murders in March. Very little was heard about these bloody events that visited the Mangyan communities in the province. At first, the tribal people wanted to just bury their dead and be left alone to go on with their lives. Peace, even an uneasy one, was paramount for them.

Neither left nor right

When two suspected leftist activists were killed in Mindoro in April, allegedly by military troopers, a furor was whipped up by human rights advocates, leading to a Senate investigation.

The Mangyans preferred not to be linked to any of the contending groups. In general, they have never wanted to be identified with armed groups operating in their area. At one time, they even had a score to settle with the communist New People's Army rebels who took away their mapping equipment on suspicion that they were surveillance devices.

The people were also aloof to the military. They feared that warming up to either side could give rise to suspicions. But unlike the Mangyans of old who feared the lowlanders, many of them today are no longer reclusive and reticent. Thanks to education and the efforts of development and Church-supported nongovernment organizations, they have emerged from their placid and below-subsistence lifestyle to claim their birthright and place in the larger society—peacefully, and not through violent means.

With vigor and resolve, they are reclaiming their lost Eden, their ancestral domain that is dwindling in size and much coveted by miners, loggers and land prospectors.

Ambushes, abductions

But a pattern and motive emerge as one views the series of tragedies that took place in March in Oriental Mindoro.

In the morning of March 21, four soldiers were killed and two others were wounded when an improvised land mine, purportedly planted by NPA rebels, exploded when a military vehicle carrying soldiers passed over it. According to officers of the 68th and 204th Infantry Brigades of the Philippine Army, the soldiers were on their way to Pinamalayan town when the explosion and ambush took place. The site is near the Pambisan Elementary School.

THE MESSAGE was clear: be warned, more could follow.

Six days later, on March 26, close to midnight, Rizal Matri, a member of the Taubuid Mangyan tribe in Sitio Mayi, La Fortuna, Socorro town, was abducted by 10 men with high-powered firearms. The following day, his body was found on the bank of a nearby river. According to the autopsy report of the municipal health center, Matri died from multiple bullet wounds in different parts of the body.

Another ambush took place on March 27, in Sitio Balete, Barangay Hagan in Bongabong town. Two soldiers were killed during the gun battle between Army troopers and communist rebels.

Finding Untoy

Three days later, on the night of March 30, Untoy Agaw, a Buhid Mangyan from Sitio Ugun Liguma of the same barangay, was abducted from his house by five armed men in civilian clothes. His family and community searched for him for more than two weeks. Had he been released and was on his way home? He could not have gotten lost in the woods on his way back as he knew the terrain like the back of his hand. Did he fall, did he drown, was he devoured by wild beasts?

UNTOY Agaw, 34: Why was he killed?

The answer came on April 18 when Untoy was found in Sitio Pagasa in Barangay Morente. His hands and feet were bound and his body bore marks of cruelty. He had not been dead a long time. His neck wound was still fresh, which meant that his captors had him alive for almost two weeks before they decided to end his life brutally. And why did they have to stuff his mouth?

Witnesses claimed that a vehicle had driven to that spot where Untoy's body was found. Whoever brought his body there would have had to pass near the military detachment. Passing by unnoticed would have been unlikely.

The autopsy report said the hack wound in Untoy's neck cut through the esophagus carotid artery and vein, and he died of external hemorrhage.

At the time of his death, Untoy was an active member of a community organization called the Sadik Hbanan. Although not a leader, he was a potential one. His father had been an active Mangyan figure until his illness and it was likely that Untoy would follow in his footsteps.

More murders

On March 31, the day after Untoy was abducted, another Mangyan was forcibly taken by armed men from inside his house in Sitio Tibong in Pinamalayan. Taubuid Mangyan Dino Matri, a nephew of Rizal Matri was taken and killed less than 50 meters from his house.

That same day, Butuan Sagbus, also a Taubuid, was forcibly taken from his house so he could serve as guide to the house of Dino. The armed men killed him, too. His family buried him the following day at the Saban Mangyan reservation. There was no autopsy.

The families of Rizal and Dino Matri, the Taubuid leaders and staff members of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples have gone to the provincial office of the Philippine National Police to request for an investigation. They have also requested that Dino's body be exhumed and examined.

These tragic events have been documented by the provincial office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). A report has been forwarded to Lagtum A. Pasag, a Mangyan himself, and NCIP commissioner for Island Groups and Visayas. Pasag knew Untoy Agaw personally.

In November last year and in March and April this year, harassment, threats, physical assault, illegal arrests, displacement from homes, abduction and summary killings have been the lot of Mangyans living in different towns. The Mangyans belong to tribes such as Iraya, Taubuid, Buhid, Hanunuo, Bangon and Tadyawan.

The cases have been documented. Is anyone in the government looking into them?

Not by NPA

An NCIP report for the Senate committee on indigenous peoples said the killings could not have been done by the NPA rebels. It pointed out that the abductions took place in the vicinity of the ambush sites and, therefore, these may have been "a reprisal action of the military" for the death of the soldiers.

The NPA could not have operated in those areas after they had staged an ambush as the areas were considered "hot" zones. The rebel group had not claimed responsibility for the abduction, something they usually do to make clear their motive and show their might.

Said the report: "There are no other reasons that could be given for the abductions and killings except the problem of armed conflict between the government and the NPA. Nothing was stolen from the victims, no witnesses have come out to say that there may have been personal problems that could cause such violence."

Bonnet Gang

The so-called Bonnet Gang has reportedly been operating in Oriental Mindoro since the Armed Forces' 204th Infantry Brigade come to the island. Its members are reportedly anti-NPA and have been suspected as behind summary killings in the past. They use ski bonnets to cover their heads and faces when they do their job.

An NCIP report said some military men in the 204th IB think that the Mangyans in the uplands are either members or supporters of the NPA. Not true, the report said. "The soldiers do not take into consideration the culture of the Mangyan tribes in Mindoro, which is peaceful and non-aggressive," it stressed. It pointed out that the Mangyans could not even chase away outsiders who encroach on their ancestral domain.

As Mangyan custom dictated, after the mourning period for Untoy was over, the wooden house he had built for his family—wife Man-ayan Bakay and four children—was torn down. This was to prevent Untoy's soul from coming back, for him to be at peace in the dwelling place of the guardian spirits and in the company of his ancestors.

Knowing the Mangyans

THE MANGYANS are the original inhabitants of Mindoro Island. With the coming of lowlanders and settlers, they experienced social and political isolation. Their basic right to their ancestral domain, to maintain a distinct identity, and to be heard and enjoy basic services have been denied for a long time.

At present, they occupy only half of what they used to call their domain. Pasture leases, mining and other commercial operations have encroached into their lives.

The Mangyans comprise 10 percent of the Mindoro population. They number approximately 60,000. About only 200 have finished college education. They currently have 0.6 percent of the elective positions at the provincial and municipal levels.

The Kapulungan Para sa Lupaing Ninuno (KPLN), founded in 1994, brought together organizations from seven Mangyan tribes. It addresses the ancestral domain issue. The passage of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, which the Mangyans lobbied for, gave marginalized indigenous groups great hope.

The Mangyans belong to seven major tribes—Alangan, Bangon, Buhid, Iraya, Hanunuo, Tadyawan and Taubuid. They speak a language of their own, aside from Filipino.

Many of them still like to wear G-strings; the women prefer shirts made from bark and vines when they are among themselves in their habitat.

The Mangyans of Mindoro and the Tagbanua of Palawan are the only indigenous groups in the Philippines that have preserved their own way of writing based on a syllabary (a set of written characters, each one of which represents the sound of a syllable). This is now a source of cultural pride. In the past, the Mangyans' writings were etched on bamboo with a sharp blade. Efforts are being made to preserve this Mangyan contribution to the richness of the Filipino culture.

Compiled by Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Malang fascinates, inspires boy painter

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Magarao, Camarines Sur

SYLRAN Jelvic C. Villaflor, 15, has just finished a Malang-inspired piece in a make-up studio in their rented apartment in Magarao, Camarines Sur. The boy said he was fascinated by Malang's style of putting varying colors into a coherent work of art.

"Simple," Villaflor added another description of Malang's style. He then explained that the leaves painted on the sides of the canvas symbolized freshness.

The piece he has just finished is an ensemble of blue, orange and yellow hues, evoking dignity of labor on a religious mother and her child as they vend fresh *tilapia.*

He has not seen a real Malang, but he has seen some of the artist's works in magazines that his father brought home after work. He said Malang's style inspired him to further develop his own painting skills and styles.

Certainly, he would be very glad, if given the chance, to work as an apprentice of the artist, he said. But he has not even attended a single formal art workshop, which he has been longing for.

Three years ago, Villaflor placed first runner-up in a nationwide painting contest sponsored by the Zoiron pharmaceutical firm.

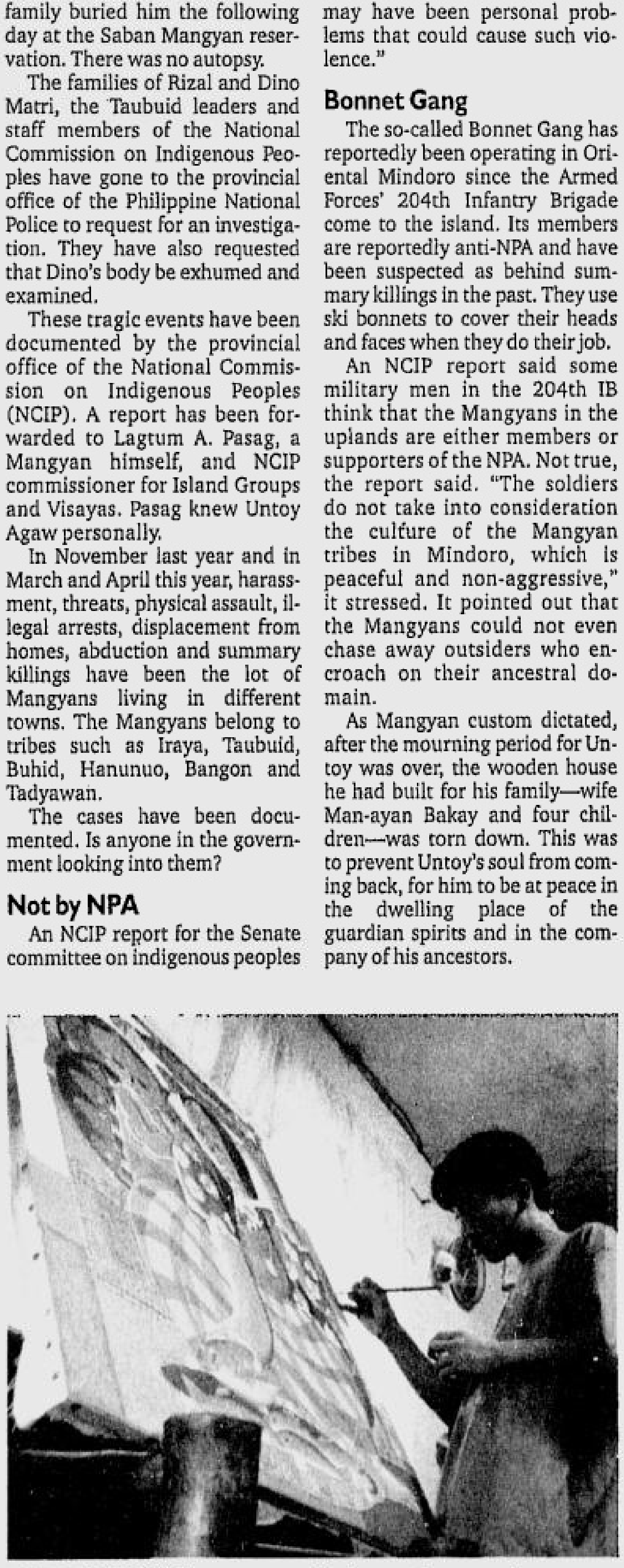
That same year, he was also one of the five national finalists in the Banco Filipino Mascot Making Contest. He was then 12 years old and was completing his intermediate education at the Naga Central School.

He could have savored the first exposure of his work when he won the Zoiron Painting Contest 2000. He was promised that his work would be published in an Asian magazine, but it never materialized. Villaflor wondered why the sponsor had not informed him of the circumstances behind the non-publication of his and other young painters' winning works.

Despite the frustration, the painting contest has showed the direction he now wants to pursue in the field of visual arts.

Villaflor's inherent talent was noticed as early as when he was just in Grade 3. His teacher assigned him to do the editorial cartoons of the campus paper until he graduated from the elementary.

He also did the mascot of the Palarong Pambansa 2002, which was held in Naga.



SYLRAN Jelvic Villaflor creates another impressive art work. VIC VILLAFLOR

Gringo still in Metro, says Guardian leader

From page A1

he was just near ... in Metro Manila," Duldulao told reporters at a news conference yesterday.

Duldulao is one of five PGBI officials charged Monday by the Department of Justice along with Honasan in connection with the July 27 mutiny of the Magdalo group composed of junior military officers.

Duldulao said that unlike Honasan, he would "face the music." But he said he would not advise the senator and PGBI head to submit to government investigation.

"He has his own mind," Duldulao said of the "inaccessible" senator. "His safety is not quite secured [if] he comes out under the present circumstances."

As for himself, Duldulao said, "I will file a counter-affidavit in the next few days. I don't need to hide because I am just a common person, unlike Senator Honasan."

Malacañang yesterday rejected Honasan's demand, conveyed Tuesday by his wife Jane, that he would come out of hiding only if the state of rebellion were lifted.

Boy dela Cruz, head of the PGBI Pasay City chapter, denied that they were involved in the mutiny but said Honasan had their unwavering support "in his bid for justice."

"We support our president and grand supremo. We will give him all the support he needs," Dela Cruz said.

Duldulao reiterated that the demonstration of the National Recovery Program that included the PGBI on July 27 in Makati was in no way connected to the mutiny at the Oakwood Premier.

"We were actually forced by police to the vicinity of the Oakwood apartments," he said. "It's like a script meant to link the PGBI to the Magdalo group that incidentally was also pushing for the NRP."

Duldulao also said the demonstration was an advance mass action for President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address the following day.

Proceso Maligalig, spokesperson of the rightwing Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa and a retired Navy captain, said he met with some PGBI members and assured them that they should not be bothered by the coup charges.

PRESIDENT Macapagal: No leniency for those who have gotten away with murder. EDWIN BACASMAS

"We are telling our Guardians that if they were not involved [in the coup attempt], they should stay relaxed. We should believe in the rule of law once in a while," he said in a phone-patch interview with reporters.

Maligalig also said the charges filed against some PGBI members "come with the territory."

Gringo can't make demands

The President said Honasan and the mutineers could not expect leniency this time. *(Story on Page A1.)*

"When asked whether the President was alluding to the administration of President Fidel Ramos, her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said she was talking about the recommendation of the Davide Commission that looked into the coup attempts during the Aquino administration.

Bunye said the commission, headed by now Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., recommended that "strong sanctions" be enforced against the 1989 mutineers led by Honasan.

Bunye also said it was not for Honasan to demand the lifting of the state of rebellion, which Ms Macapagal prolonged to enable authorities to go after "residual threats" of the July 27 mutiny.

"The senator will be assured due process but the President will lift the state of rebellion when the situation warrants," Bunye said. "She will not lift this because somebody requested it, or some persons demanded it, or is questioning it in court. She will lift it when it is appropriate."

Ms Macapagal refused to be drawn into a media debate with Honasan.

"As formal charges have been laid in connection with the attempted coup, it is now time to leave the judicial process to its work. We refuse to be forever engaged in a propaganda festival in the aftermath of this misadventure," she said in her speech.

The President said there were democratic tools to ferret out the truth and democratic institutions to render impartial justice.

The President said the fact-finding commission had begun its work of investigating the roots of the mutiny while the Senate and the House of Representatives were determined to seek legislative solutions.

"As a nation, we are consolidating and tying up all the executive, legislative and judicial actions that will bear upon this threat, and resolve it once and for all," she said.

Bunye said Honasan should come out and face the coup charges.

"Flight gives rise to the presumption of guilt. If he does not come forward, it will be as if he admits that he had something to do with what happened in Makati," Bunye said in an interview over Radyo ng Bayan.

The legal way

At a news conference, Senate President Franklin Drilon said Honasan phoned before noon yesterday to say that he was organizing a legal team in preparation for his defense on the charges filed against him.

"This indicates in my mind that he will be submitting his counter-affidavit to the Department of Justice," Drilon said.

Drilon also quoted Honasan as saying that he had yet to receive a subpoena containing the affidavits of witnesses used by the Department of Interior and Local Government in filing the charges.

Under the law, Drilon said, the senator had 10 days to file a counter-affidavit once he receives the subpoena. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio*

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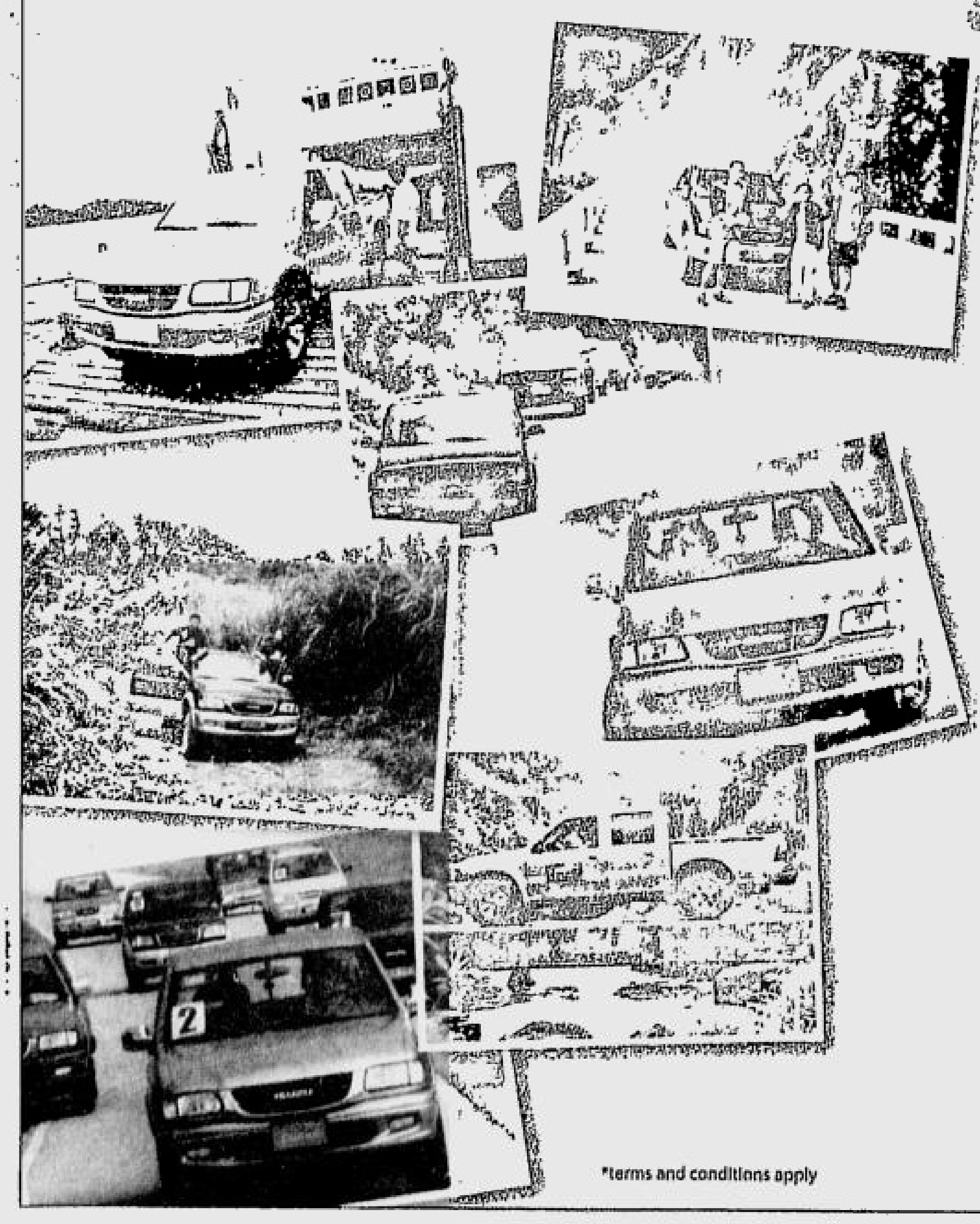

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   a. Typewritten testimonial on 1-2 pages bond size, A4, double-spaced with your NAME, ADDRESS, CONTACT NUMBERS and SIGNATURE. Entries may be written in English or Filipino.
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   a. mail to the Customer Relations Team, Isuzu Philippines Corporation, 114 Technology Ave., Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna;
   b. e-mail to **my-fuego@isuzuphil.com.**
5. Only entries received on or before September 5, 2003 will be qualified.
6. Preliminary judging will be done on September 8-10, 2003 5:00PM by representatives from Isuzu Philippines Corp. where a shortlist of 25 will be determined, in the presence of a DTI representative. **The short-listed entries will each get P2,500.00 in cash.**
7. Final judging will be done on September 11 & 12, 2003 by a panel of judges from the press and advertising industry and supervised by a representative from the DTI, to award the prizes.
8. All winning entries become the exclusive property of Isuzu Philippines Corp.
9. Winners will be judged according to the following criteria:

Content (60%)
- Clarity (20%)
- Relevance (20%)
- Interest Factor (15%)
- Picture (5%)

Writing Style (40%)
- Accuracy (20%)
- Cohesion (20%)

10. A participant can win only once in the final judging. If a name wins more than once, he gets the bigger prize.
11. All prizes are TAX-PAID, no fees are required upon claim of prizes.
12. Winners will be notified via phone and registered mail. Winners will be announced in leading newspapers.
13. Winners can claim their prizes from the Customer Relations Team of Isuzu Philippines Corporation, 114 Technology Ave., Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna within 60 days of receipt of notification, otherwise, prizes will be forfeited with prior approval of DTI. Bring any valid ID for identity verification when claiming your prize.
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- All entries received shall be dropped in a sealed dropbox by authorized representatives of the Customer Relations Team of Isuzu Philippines Corp.
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2003

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Cops secure Metro malls, vital facilities

By the Metro Staff

THE ENTIRE Metro Manila police force is back on full alert.

This came after an American-owned hotel was bombed in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing at least 14 people and injuring more than 140 others.

The bombing is believed to be a terrorist attack.

In an order relayed to all police stations in Metro Manila yesterday, National Capital Region Police Office director Reynaldo Velasco directed all police district directors to "heighten security levels in all vital installations and business establishments" in their respective areas.

The additional security measures are being implemented amid threats of possible terrorist attacks in the city.

In Manila, Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod, Western Police District Public Information Officer, said the oil depot in Pandacan, the LRT stations and the US embassy on Roxas Boulevard are under tight watch.

The other day, WPD officials formed a task force aimed at boosting the defense of Malacañang against possible attacks by terrorists and rogue soldiers.

Yesterday, Velasco told policemen to pay special attention to vital installations, business establishments, schools and transport terminals.

"I have already ordered the deployment of additional policemen, as well as plainclothesmen, supported by K9 teams in malls and business establishments to ensure the safety of the public," Velasco said.

Aside from these, Velasco also called on various agencies, both private and government, to intensify the mandatory checking of passengers, baggage and shipments at the seaports, airports and bus terminals which could be used as entry points by terrorists.

In the Northern Police District, NPD Director Marcelino Franco Jr. had already ordered heightened security for the Light Rail Transit stations and bus terminals, where a lot of people converge.

Also being closely monitored are the business areas in Caloocan City, including the Monumento circle and the Petron Corporation bulk plant in the Navotas fish port area.

Franco said the district continued to maintain checkpoints in all entry points from Northern Luzon to Metro Manila.

In Mandaluyong City, Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. said there was no reason to panic.

"All (emergency) systems are in place. Our malls, movie houses and other key infrastrucures are safe," Abalos said. Pasig, Mandaluyong and San Juan have four of the biggest malls in Metro Manila.

Pasig Police chief Sr. Supt. Ernesto Catungal said that aside from Virra Mall, Robinson's Galleria, Shangri-La and the SM Megamall, police were closely watching the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) in Ortigas Center.

Catungal said they had also secured the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) complex and the LRT stations in the area. *Reports from Edson Tandoc Jr., Luige del Puerto, Leila B. Salaverria and Tina Santos*

MEMBERS of an elite police team patrol outside the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City where finance ministers from Asean countries are meeting Wednesday.
AP

Crackdown set on prison bribes

By Alcuin Papa

NO MORE bribes.

Bureau of Corrections Director retired general Dionisio Santiagao warned the other day inmates and their relatives to stop paying off guards inside the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa in an effort to curb corruption inside the penitentiary.

Santiago noted that some rich inmates, mostly foreigners like Chinese drug offender Peter Co, are being used as "milking cows" by some guards.

"I would tell them not to spend anymore money. We are in the process of resolving the problem of corruption in our ranks. Some (inmates) here are very susceptible to offers and in the long run, they (inmates and their families) will have a hard time," Santiago told the INQUIRER in a phone interview the other day.

He added that inmates are forced to keep large amounts of cash which they use to pay off guards and even fellow inmates for certain "favors."

Santiago has launched a crackdown inside the jail through surprise raids and inspections on jail cells. The raids have yielded large amounts of cash, improvised weapons and illegal drugs.

As a result, Santiago has implemented strict policies inside the jail, which include curtailing visitation rights and privileges of inmates. Families of inmates are reportedly grumbling against the new strict policies in place.

"All they have to do is follow regulations we have established here and everyone will benefit," Santiago pointed out.

In a related matter, Santiago said he is consulting with the Board of Parole on the issue of inmates who are already eligible for parole but are still languishing inside the jail.

"Its a matter of coordination on the documentation from our part. But we are fixing these weaknesses in our system so the inmates would have to be at a disadvantage," Santiago explained.

The BuCor chief also shrugged off death threats he said he was getting from "certain quarters."

Santiago revealed that an P8 million contract has been taken out on his life.

"I'm used to getting death threats and I am not scared. So they better stop their threats."

Korean flasher lands in jail

By Leila B. Salaverria

A KOREAN who flashed his penis in a fit of anger yesterday had landed in a Manila jail.

Hyun Jong, 41, was arrested as he was flashing his sex organ to pedestrians and motorists on Roxas Boulevard at about 10:00 a.m.

Insp. Kimberly Molitas and P02 John Taruc were driving from Quirino Avenue when they spotted Hyun's indecent display.

They arrested the Korean, but his two companions and compatriots claimed Hyun was showing off to a taxi driver by exposing to him his penis because he was angry at the driver who had sideswiped him with his vehicle in front of the Grand Boulevard Hotel.

Hyun's Korean companions did not say how a display of private parts could be an expression of anger.

Hyun's passport listed him as a businessman. He has been in the country for two months.

But Hyun's ordeal did not end with his arrest.

Instead of being repentant at the police station, Hyun and his companions showed their displeasure by shouting at the cops.

"Philippine police no good," shouted one of the Koreans.

"Don't shout," retorted a police officer.

The argument between the police and the foreigners ended when the authorities gave an ultimatum that Hyun's companions would be booked if they did not quiet down.

SP04 Cecilio Sacorum said Hyun would be charged with exhibition or violation of article 201 of the Revised Penal Code.

No easy way out for bike owners

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

MOTORCYLE owners beware. It might save you money but getting a cheaper registration certificate for your motorcycle could get you into trouble.

Northern Police District Director Marcelino Franco warned motorists yesterday about a syndicate offering cheap but fake registration certificates and operating in northern Metro Manila.

This is what the district police uncovered amid its intensified anti-car theft drive, where most of the motorcycles confiscated had fake registration certificates.

Franco told the INQUIRER that most of the syndicate's clients were owners of smuggled motorcycles.

Since the smuggled motorcycles do not have the proper registration documents, the owners turn to the syndicate for fake registration certificates.

But with the police's anti-car theft drive, Franco said buying a smuggled motorcycle and getting a cheap but fake registration certificate for it would be unwise.

Franco advised owners of smuggled motorcycles to get proper documents from the Bureau of Customs, or else risk getting caught, and their motorcycles confiscated.

He said smuggled motorcycles, most of which were second-hand, were being slipped into Metro Manila from the Ilocos Region.

The smuggled vehicles came mostly from Taiwan and China, Franco added.

BF escort killed in QC road mishap

By Tina Santos

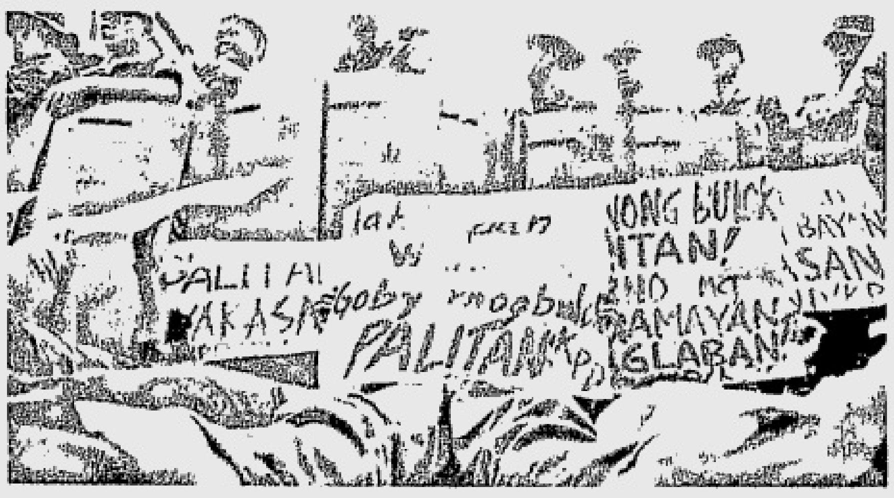
IT WAS death at high speed.

Eurelio Ramos Sr., an aide-escort of Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando, was killed instantly after the motorcycle he was driving crashed head-on into an owner-type jeep in Quezon City on Tuesday, the police reported yesterday.

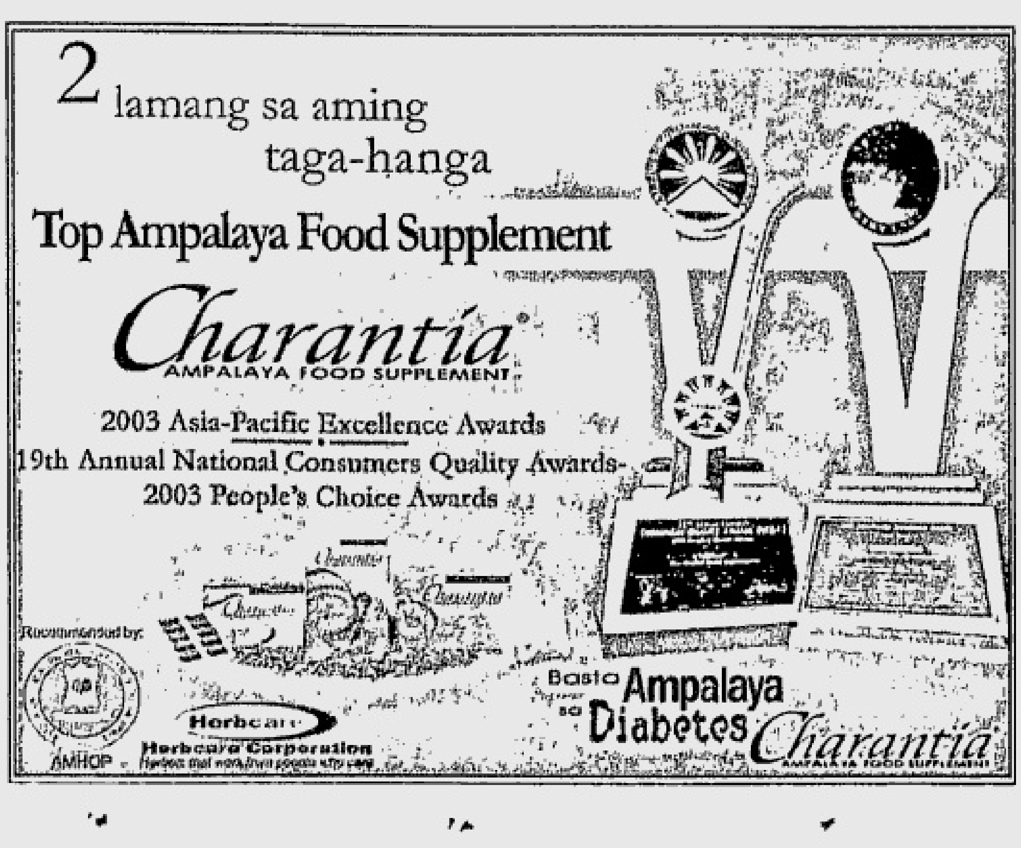
The police said Ramos was cruising along Katipunan Avenue in front of St. Ignatius Village at 3:55 p.m. when the jeep (WRA 749) driven by Ramon Ludiveses, 39, of Salvador Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, suddenly cut his path.

Investigation showed that Ludiveses, who was coming the other direction, entered the opposite lane.

The skull of Ramos was cracked open on impact, police said. Ramos, 31, was a resident of Bernardo Street, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City.



STILL AT IT Members of a militant group hold a "die-in" in front of Camp Aguinaldo on Wednesday as part of their protest rally to demand the ouster of President Macapagal.
JOAN BONDOC



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Bus owners excited over new traffic plan

By Margaux Ortiz

THIS time, they get to call the shots.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said yesterday that bus owners and operators have something to be excited about.

Vergel de Dios said that aside from the financial advantages of the Organized Edsa Bus Route or the single dispatch system, the bus operators would get to formulate all the rules, regulations and sanctions for erring bus drivers.

He added the bus operators would also hire their own men to be part of the dispatching and monitoring units on Edsa.

The dispatching and monitoring units would be tasked to observe passenger presence on Edsa and inform terminals of the need for more or lesser bus units to be dispatched.

Vergel de Dios said the approach would enable the agency to avoid any suspicion that they are favoring some bus companies over the others.

He said the MMDA would still pay the salaries of the dispatchers.

The traffic director added that the bus operators could check on each other so there would be lesser chances of traffic-related offenses.

Metro Manila Bus Operators Association (MMBOA) president Ramon Castillo said that they are holding meetings regarding the finalization of the scheme.

Petron bulk plant back in operation

CLOSED. And opened.

The Navotas Municipal Government reopened a Petron Corporation bulk plant in the Navotas Fish Complex after the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order preventing the local government from closing down the plant.

The temporary restraining order, issued last Friday, ordered the Municipality of Navotas "not to interfere" with the plant's operations. The local government closed down the plant about two months ago for its alleged failure to pay more than P10 million in local taxes.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that the local government would abide by the court order. He said the padlocks they had previously set up to close the plant have already been removed. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

METROBRIEFS

Not fast enough

HOW fast can robbers run? Fast enough to go after a woman on board a pedicab, but not fast enough to outrun responding policemen. The Marikina Police arrested yesterday Jose Bustamante, Nikko Lito Banquil and Jessie Galgao after they allegedly robbed Ma. Suzzete Esmero of the Tumana District. The suspects chased the pedicab along Ampalaya Street at dawn Wednesday and poked a double-edged knife at Esmero and took away her Nokia 3310 and some P5,000 in cash. But the suspects' running skills proved no match to three officers who were near the place. The suspects were collared soon after. *Luige del Puerto*

Defenseless plea

THE PLEA of self-defense by Juanito Morate who is accused of killing Fidel Oregas proved no defense after the Manila Regional Trial Court sentenced him to 8 to 14 years in prison for homicide. Three witnesses told the court that Morate killed Oregas at about 2:30 a.m. on Feb. 24, 2000, when the two got into a scuffle in Daan Muna Kayo Videoke bar and restaurant in Pedro Gil street in Paco. Jackie Jimenez, Josie Garcia, and Gina Perez, who were with Morate said Oregas got angry at their chatting and singing. Apart from the jail time, Morate was ordered to pay P86,200 in damages. *Tarra Quismundo*

PAFP grad course

DR. REYNALDO Olazo, president, and Dr. Imelda Maribeth Garcia, executive secretary of the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians, invite all PAFP members to the 42nd Postgraduate Course Module 2 on Aug. 24, 2003, Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Quezon City Sports Club (Banquet Hall). The theme of the course is "Screening Lifestyle Diseases." Topics include: Dyslipidemia (NCEP Guidelines), Hypertension (JNC VII), Motivating or Behavior Change, Family Case Presentation: Family Wellness and Wellness Programs in the Community. For inquiries, call up Vicky Merina with Tel. Nos. 844-21-35 and 844-34-36.

'Run GMA' drive hangs

GMA SANA
AY IKAW NA NGA
ANAK-PAWIS

PASSERSBY at a Manila street corner seem oblivious of the streamer which appears to urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to run in 2004.

ERIK ARAZAS

Message up in the air

By Tarra Quismundo

AS GIGANTIC billboards loomed overhead, streamers of thin white cloth hung by lampposts and street signs below, slightly higher than a pedestrian's height.

And although the streamers may appear trivial, they scream of messages such as "GMA - Sana ay ikaw na nga," scribbled in orange paint.

Another one, this time in green and brown paint, said "GMA, Wish namin ikaw pa rin." Others said "GMA, Kapuso ng Masa," and "Run, Gloria, Run."

The streamers, addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo, had begun to hang above Manila's busy thoroughfares.

Along Taft Avenue, these were in nearly every intersection. At Padre Faura, one sign hung at the intersection of Taft Avenue, near the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice.

But nobody at city hall knew who were responsible for the streamers.

"We do not know who have been putting them up," said City Engineer Armand Andres.

A few of the streamers bore the name "Manila Youth." One was signed "Anak-Pawis."

"We do not have any affiliate called Manila Youth," said Ryan Ponce, operations and action officer of the Youth Development and Welfare Bureau.

The Sangguniang Kabataan Federation likewise did not know of such an organization.

Manila's Business Promotion and Development Office Special Permits Section officer Tess Fernandez said they had not issued permits for the streamers making these illegal.

Andres said that if the streamers were illegal, they should be removed.

"But we have not received any directive to remove the streamers," Andres said.

Meanwhile, Caloocan City mayor Rey Malonzo said he had expected the results of the latest Social Weather Stations survey, which showed Ms. Macapagal enjoying a slim lead over the other presidentiables.

"Palagay namin (mayors) tatakbo siya. Kailangan siya ng partido [at] ng mga kababayan natin," Malonzo said.

Navotas mayor Toby Tiangco said the survey results would inspire the President to work harder for the country. *With Edson Tandoc*

No tears for these 100 trees

By Margaux Ortiz

WHILE all eyes are on the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) battle with environmentalists over the clearing of trees on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, some 100 trees are being removed from the islands of Kalayaan Avenue in Makati City.

Makati City officials said the tree-clearing operation was part of a road-widening project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The affected trees are being attended to by the Makati Environmental Services Department.

Joey Salgado of the city's information and corporate relations department said their men were currently balling or transferring the trees from the road islands to nurseries in the Fort Bonifacio and South Cembo areas.

Living & dead

The trees that are being cut are those which were already dead in the first place and cannot be saved, Salgado said.

He assured concerned people that the live trees outnumbered the dead ones so "there was no need to worry."

But environmentalists who led protests on Katipunan Avenue were taken aback by the development.

Ester Perez de Tagle, founder of the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution, said they were not aware of the Kalayaan project.

She said that they would have to check if the workers were balling the trees properly.

She explained that there was a proper balling procedure which, if not followed, could lead to a tree's death.

"Trees have a very high mortality rate," she said. "They will die if the men don't know how to ball them properly."

The INQUIRER tried to talk to DPWH Engr. Ray Rosario, who is in charge of the road widening project on Kalayaan Avenue, but he could not be reached for comment.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando was also unaware of the clearing operation but promised to look into it.

Melanie Marquez victimized by burglars

By Tina Santos

FORMER beauty queen and model-actress Melanie Marquez lost cash and valuables to still unidentified suspects who ransacked her house in Quezon City, police reported yesterday.

Marquez, 42, told police that the suspects could have broken into and looted her house on East Maya Street, Barangay Philam Life Village, between 6 a.m. August 4 and 9:30 a.m. yesterday.

Marquez said she was shocked to find the doors of the house open and everything inside in total disarray, adding that a pair of scissors was still inserted in the doorknob of the master's bedroom, an indication that it had been forcibly opened.

She told police that the house, which also serves as her and her husband's office, was left unattended for two days since they were out of town attending to some important business.

As of press time, police said the actress had yet to determine the things missing.

The actress, on the other hand, blamed lack of security in the village as the reason why the burglars managed to enter her house.

"That has been my problem ever since, I've been complaining about it for so long," Marquez said.

Ovejas Fernandez; 54

LYDIA Ovejas Fernandez died on Aug. 6 of aneurism at the age of 54. Her body lies at the Faith Chapel of Don Bosco Makati. Interment will be on Aug. 9, 10 a.m. in San Rafael, Bulacan.

She is survived by her husband Marcelo Fernandez and children Margarita "Maita" with husband John Marc and Ferdinand Joseph, and grandson Zachary.

Her brother Antonio and sisters Amelia Ovejas, Lilia Deloso, Emma Deloso and Betty Ovejas request prayers for Lydia.

Ex-cop in pyramid scam collared

By Leila B. Salaverria

A FORMER police officer who is reportedly a suspect in a pyramid scam was nabbed in Manila Tuesday for allegedly poking a gun at policemen.

Reports show that the black BMW driven by ex-P01 Manuel Roldan Jr., 32, who was dismissed in 2000 and a resident of Ayala Alabang, nearly collided with a police car at around 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday along Pedro Gil St.

Roldan allegedly pulled out .45 gun and poked it at the police officers.

Investigators said Roldan was dismissed for his involvement in a pyramid scam victimizing lawmen. Roldan denied his involvement in the scam, saying he has paid off his creditors.

Gringo, up close and personal

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AT THE rate the media are reporting about Sen. Gregorio Honasan, he might end up as the country's next president.

Honasan is getting all the publicity he could possibly dream of. And given the Filipino's penchant for rooting for the underdog, Gringo might top the list of "presidentiables."

* * *

The longer he hides, the more publicity mileage he gets, even if the news reports about him are bad. As they say in show business, bad news is still publicity for the person being written about.

Gringo the Coup-Coup-Roo-Coup will not come out until he has wrung out all the news about him from the media. And when he finally emerges, he will do so with all fanfare attendant to his being a senator.

* * *

I remember a story about Gringo while he was in hiding after the 1989 coup try.

He sought shelter in a friend's house in Cubao, Quezon City. He stayed there for months, according to the daughter of his friend whom I will not identify.

The daughter of his friend got to know the real firebrand up close and personal.

* * *

Gringo, she told me, was not the leader his followers thought he was: solicitous of their welfare.

"He was more concerned about his dog which he spoiled with dog food. He would ask us to buy plenty of food for his dog," said the woman.

She asked Gringo why he was worried about where to find food for his dog whereas he didn't seem worried about the other coup plotters who were in detention or hiding.

* * *

"They are soldiers, they can take care of themselves while this dog is helpless without me," she quoted him as saying.

Gringo's reply astonished her and changed her regard for him, she said.

* * *

There was a time, she said, Gringo's long stay in their house—plus the worry that anytime they might be raided by government soldiers—was already taking a toll on the family.

One day, she said, she had a quarrel with Honasan over a petty matter she could no longer recall.

"So, I brought up the matter of his long stay in the house and the stress my family was experiencing hiding a fugitive," she said.

* * *

Gringo's reply, she said, dumbfounded her.

"You must be grateful for hiding me because you have become a part of history," she quoted Honasan as saying.

If that was not a sign of megalomania, then what was it?

* * *

Gringo has no moral authority to preach against corruption in this administration or in previous administrations, if one of his fellow coup plotter is to be given credence.

The former coup conspirator said Honasan has lost the trust of many officers and men who took part in several coup attempts. These people learned Honasan got financial support from many sectors in launching several attempted power grab.

The money never reached the coup participants, his erstwhile "coup-league" said.

* * *

Although Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus has resigned as military intelligence chief, he is not shirking from future battles.

I heard from his lawyer, Vicente Chuidian, that Corpus was preparing his own criminal and civil lawsuits against the Oakwood mutineers who asked for his head.

Chuidian said that his client would file grave coercion and libel charges against the mutineers. Grave coercion, for demanding his resignation from the service, and libel for accusing him of masterminding the Davao City bombings.

* * *

Actually, it doesn't take a genius to figure out that the accusations against Corpus on the Davao City bombings are incredibly stupid.

Corpus' motive, according to the mutineers, was to get more foreign aid from the United States. To repeat, what a stupid charge.

If the Philippines expected to get more foreign aid from the US, it was because of President Macapagal-Arroyo's unqualified support given to President Bush in the ongoing war against terror.

* * *

It was evident Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV was parroting the accusations that he was fed by his handlers in order to get even with Corpus for exposing the mutiny days in advance. It was also apparent the mutineers were like puppets

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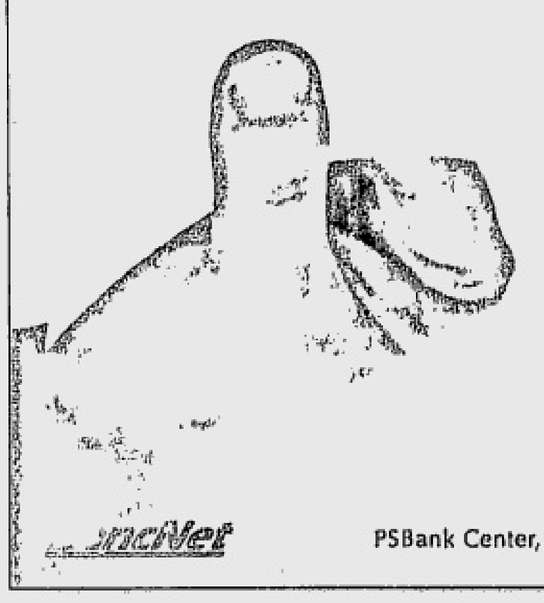

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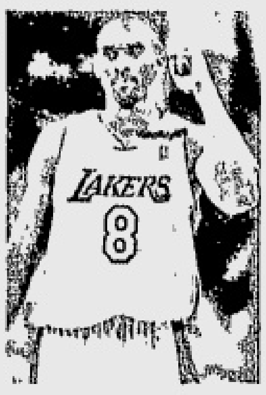

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Only 116 officials going to Vietnam

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE will only be 116 officials going to the Southeast Asian Games.

As promised, the SEA Games Task Force trimmed down to the minimum the number of coaches and officials who will handle and supervise the participation of more than 400 athletes competing in Vietnam in December.

The number includes 28 team managers (one for every sport where the country is taking part), 87 coaches and one priest who will act as the RP delegation's spiritual adviser.

Task Force chief Steve Hontiveros said the decision to cut the officials' SEAG slots to the lowest possible number "is a big departure from our usual practice" to make sure there will be no freeloaders in the official delegation.

The old policy was to send one official for every two athletes. So if the country sends 482 athletes with the inclusion of those on the conditional list, the Task Force is allowed to send as many as 241 officials.

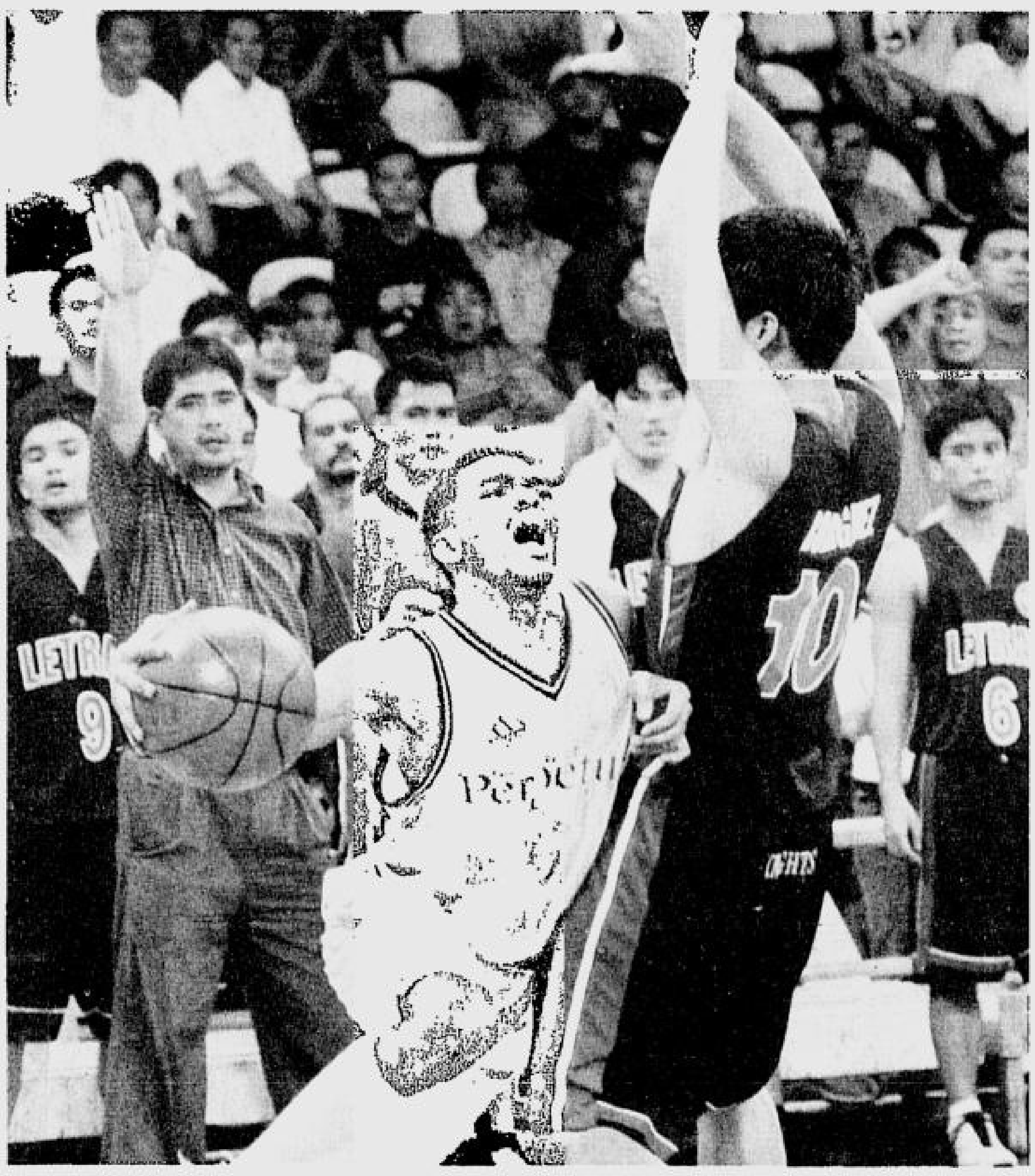
But Hontiveros said the Task Force decided to be strict this time. Thus, the team managers could either be the national sports association presidents or their secretary generals. The coaches will have to be the registered mentors or those in the payroll of the Philippine Sports Commission.

The list of officials, however, doesn't include the staff of the chief of mission (wushu's Julian Camacho), the secretariat, and the media and medical staff, which will be determined by the Task Force in another meeting.

The number of coaches going to Vietnam are swimming (2), diving (2), water polo (2), archery (2), athletics (8), canoeing/kayaking (2), cycling (2 for oval, 1 for road race), fencing (6), football (2), gymnastics (3 for artistic and rhythm, 1 for aerobics), karatedo (2), pencak silat (3), rowing (1), sepak takraw (3), shooting (4), traditional boat race (2), volleyball (4), wrestling (4), weightlifting (2), wushu (4), table tennis (2), badminton 2, basketball (4), billiards (1), bodybuilding (1), boxing (3), chess (2), judo (4), taekwondo (4), tennis (2).

The Philippine Olympic Committee has already approved 377 athletes. The conditional list is made of 105 aspirants, whose credentials have yet to be scrutinized. The final list of athletes will be submitted to the Vietnam organizing committee next month.

POC spokesman Gus Villanueva said one of the Task Force's concern is the contrasting weather in Vietnam's two main venues. He said Hanoi is wintry cold by December, while Ho Chi Minh City has a hotter climate.


VLADYMIR Joe of Perpetual Help finds his way blocked by Frederick Rodriguez of Letran in their NCAA match won by the Knights.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Knights trample Altas

By June Navarro

GAMES TOMORROW (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—JRU vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
4 p.m—CSB vs PCU (srs/jrs)

ROOKIE Jonathan Pinera went beyond what was expected of him yesterday and led the Letran Knights to a come-from-behind 60-56 win over the University of Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Pinera, a 6-foot-5 find from Virac, Catanduanes, scored eight of his 12 points in the final period as the Knights overcame a sluggish second-half start to clinch their sixth victory in eight outings and tie San Beda College for the lead.

"I told him (Pinera) at the start of the season that he could play only as a reliever for my starters. But as the season progressed, he's been playing beyond what I expected of him," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

Mapua avenged its first-round loss to defending champion San Sebastian with a 78-75 decision in the second game.

Jeffrey Gonzales shone with 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Cardinals who moved up into a deadlock with Jose Rizal at 5-3.

The Stags dropped to 4-4 while the Altas took their sixth straight loss after a 2-0 start.

Pinera took the initiative for the Knights, joining hands with Ronjay Enrile as the Knights grabbed the upperhand, 55-49, with barely five minutes left.

Marcel Cuenco's triple broke a long dry spell for Perpetual and Wayne Santos drained a jumper that closed the gap, 54-56, with 23 ticks left.

But Boyet Bautista sank five of his eight charities to seal the win as the Altas went on a fouling spree in a bid to stop the clock.

Jeffrey Morial and Marlon Butuin shone as the Letran Squires dumped the UPHR Altalettes, 89-61, in the first game.

Second game (srs)

LETRAN 60—Bautista 12, Pinera 12, Enrile 11, Aban 9, Rodriguez 8, Reyes 5, Aldave 2, Fedelicio 1, Santos 0, Realista 0, Anabo 0.

UPHR 56—Javier 14, Cuenco 12, Misa 8, Joe 8, Santos 8, Barnson 4, Bolin 2, Aseron 0, Burgos 0, Quiazon 0.

Quarters: 13-13, 36-31, 42-47, 60-56

Third game (srs)

MAPUA 78—Gonzales 20, Dula 18, Martin 12, Sumalinog 6, Salud 6, Guevarra 6, Co 4, David 2, Verango 2, Migraso 2, Gorospe 0, Del Rosario 0.

SSC 75—Gonzales 17, Najorda 17, Baluyot 9, Vicente 7, Santos 7, Uy 6, Aguilar 4, Moore 3, Rebuya 3, Manoclang 2, Lim 0.

Quarters: 21-16, 38-40, 55-57, 78-75

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Montreal Masters; 7 a.m. (r - 4:30 p.m.), 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.; Star Sports—The field is further trimmed down as the second and third rounds take place in Canada..

BASKETBALL: Bullets vs Sixers, Game 1, 1986 Playoffs; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports—See Washington make a rare playoff appearance as it goes up against a Philadelphia squad headed by a retiring Julius Erving.

Rockets vs Sonics, Game 6, 1987 Western Semifinals; 11 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.)—Take a look back as Hakeem Olajuwon and his Houston teammates battle the high-scoring Seattle trio of Xavier McDaniel, Tom Chambers and Dale Ellis.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. (r); ESPN—Pinoy legends Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante go up against each other in another classic encounter.

Warriors try to get back in contention

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11 a.m.—NU vs UE (jrs)
1:30 p.m.—NU vs UE (srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs UP (srs)
6 p.m.—UST vs UP (jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

UNIVERSITY of the East, hounded by the shaky showing of its main men, tries to stay within striking distance of the pacesetters when it collides with National University today in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Warriors, whose last title came during the 1985 season, played true to form when they won their first two games, but their stars faltered against La Salle, which won 84-65, and Far Eastern, which escaped with a 64-62 decision.

Game time between UE and NU is set at 1:30 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. clash between Santo Tomas and winless UP. The first game at 11 a.m. features the clash between the Bullpups and the Pages, while the Baby Tigers and the Preps battle it out in the night-cap at 6 p.m .

"It's a must for us to win this game," said UE mentor Boyzie Zamar. "We've got to recover that winning feeling because the first round is about to end."

Asiad vets spearhead Japanese tracksters

ASIAN Games veterans Asahara Nobuharu and Suetsugu Shingo will spearhead a strong Japanese contingent expected to challenge the established stars from China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kazahkstan, Bahrain and Kuwait in the 2003 Manila Asian Athletics Association championships set Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal Memorial oval.

Nobuharu, ranked 18th in the world, finished second to Saudi Al Safaar Jamal in the Busan Asian Games last year, clocking 10.29 seconds to the latter's 10.24 in the 100 meters. China's Chen Haijian was third.

Shingo was the 200m gold medalist in Korea and is ranked 25th in the world. He timed 20.38 in winning the event, fending off Chernovol Gennadiy of Kazakhastan who was second in 20.57 and China's Yang Yaozu who was third in 20.58. Kuwait's Al Shammari Fawzi was fourth (20.73).

Gennadiy topped the event in the 2002 Asian championships in Sri Lanka with a time of 20.73 seconds. He also dominated the 200 in the four-leg 2003 Asian Grand Prix recently.

Fawzi's specialty is the 400 meters, which he ruled in the Busan Asian Games with a Games' record of 44.93. He is the defending 400-meter Asian champion and is currently ranked second in the world.

Other notables in the Japanese delegation of 88 athletes and officials are Asian champions Yoshizawa Eiichi (men's 20 km walk), Sawano Daichi (men's pole vault) and Murofoshi Koji (hammer throw).

The entry of Japan yesterday elated no end athletics president Go Teng Kok, who observed that since the SARS crisis the Japanese have been wary in sending their athletes to international tournaments.

With Lebanon, Nepal, Syria, East Timor and Vietnam also confirming their entries, the roster in the country's third hosting of the Asian trackfest rose to 35.

"Everything seems to be falling into place. I hope *tuloy-tuloy na ito*," Go said.

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Circus comes to town for Bryant's court trial

KOBE Bryant.

EAGLE, Colorado—Across the street from the Eagle County courthouse, a mini-community of satellite trucks and television tents has suddenly sprouted. Inside, final touches were being put on a security plan more suited for a head of state.

Kobe Bryant arrives Wednesday for his first court hearing in his sexual assault case, a whirlwind appearance that means little legally but has sparked a media frenzy in this otherwise sleepy mountain town.

"If there's not a change of venue this is just the beginning of the headache," Eagle police Officer Paul Ramsay said while reviewing security Tuesday.

Bryant will jet into a nearby airport, spend about 10 minutes in court to be advised of the charge against him and leave. The session before the judge is expected to be brief, but the stark pictures and video of the 24-year-old NBA superstar in court will leave an enduring image.

Bryant hoped to avoid his initial appearance, but Judge Frederick Gannett ruled otherwise. His attorneys also lost their battle to keep cameras out of the courtroom.

Now, Bryant begins the formal part of what could be a long legal fight of a felony charge that has damaged his reputation and could put him in prison.

Lawyers for both sides are trying to keep secret details of the accusations by the 19-year-old hotel worker who came to his room June 30 at a nearby mountain resort.

Gannett issued a gag order for those involved in the case and sealed police and investigator records. That hasn't stopped some media outlets from quoting sources—usually unidentified—about the woman's condition and frame of mind after she left Bryant's room that night. *AP*

Garnett inks life pact with Adidas

PORTLAND, Oregon—NBA star Kevin Garnett signed a lifetime endorsement contract with Adidas, the world's second-largest athletic shoe manufacturer.

Adidas and Andy Miller, the agent for the Minnesota Timberwolves forward, declined to disclose financial terms Tuesday.

Garnett previously was under contract with Nike but left to join And 1, a shoe start-up based in Pennsylvania, before announcing the Adidas deal.

Meanwhile, Derrick Coleman reportedly has agreed to a two-year contract of between $10-12 million to return to the Philadelphia 76ers this season.

In another development, Terry Porter, a 17-year NBA veteran, will be named coach of the Milwaukee Bucks on Wednesday, published reports said.

Adidas is a German company with US headquarters in Portland, across town from rival Nike in suburban Beaverton.

"We're actually looking for Kevin to wear our shoes not only during his playing career, but driving our basketball business long after his career on the court," Adidas spokesperson Travis Gonzolez said.

Adidas has been trying in the past year to expand its share of the US market for basketball shoes, which is dominated by Nike.

The Adidas endorsement lineup already features Orlando Magic guard Tracy McGrady, last season's leading NBA scorer, and Tim Duncan of the San Antonio Spurs, a two-time NBA Most Valuable Player who joined Adidas this year after ending a five-year association with Nike.

Garnett, second to Duncan in MVP voting last season, will earn $28 million this year in the final season of a six-year, $126 million contract with the Timberwolves.

Miller said the negotiations included talks about Garnett possibly taking an executive position at Adidas after his retirement, similar to the role Michael Jordan has at Nike.

"He's only 27, so we haven't even formulated that scenario, but Kevin would enjoy learning about the athletic shoe and sports apparel industry and I think he's looking forward to it and having that opportunity," Miller said.

Nike paid more than $100 million this year to sign deals with top NBA draft picks LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony. Kobe Bryant recently signed a five-year contract with Nike for a reported $45 million. *AP*

Woods faces new challenge

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—Tiger Woods must have grown weary giving the same speech.

Whether it was at Kapalua, Pebble Beach or Torrey Pines, the PGA Tour annual awards ceremony always featured the same routine—Woods accepting another trophy as player of the year, making a crack about surviving a confirmed media slump, reminding everyone that winning a major constitutes a great year.

This hasn't been a great year for Woods—yet.

And unless he wins the PGA Championship next week at Oak Hill, it might be time for someone else to pick up the tour's top prize for the first time in five years.

That could be a half-dozen players, starting with Masters champion Mike Weir and ending with British Open champion Ben Curtis.

Major championships carry that much weight.

In 1998, the only year Woods didn't win the award, PGA Tour players voted for Mark O'Meara and his two majors instead of David Duval, who won four tournaments, the money title and the Vardon Trophy for lowest scoring average.

The last guy to win player of the year without winning a major was Greg Norman in 1995. The Shark won three times, never missed a cut, captured the money title with a record $1.6 million, and had the tour's lowest scoring average. *AP*

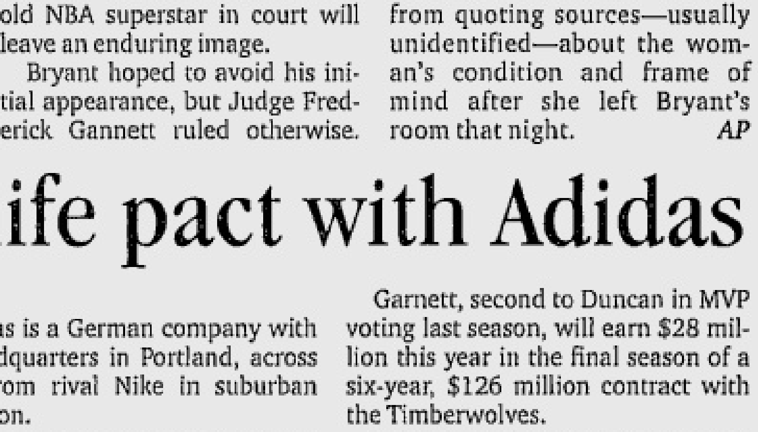
August Fore! up

SWINGING Rotarians, patrons and invited guests vie for the many prizes up for grabs in the seventh August Fore! Invitational golf tournament set tomorrow at the west course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Sequential tee-off starts at 8 a.m.

At least 80 two-man teams are set to mix it up in a scramble format for the top low gross honors and the top three places in the three handicap classifications of the charity fundraiser staged by the Rotary Club of Diliman RI District 3780 and its PDG Melito "Bimbo" Salazar.

A Mitsubishi Lancer GLS manual from Mitsubishi Motors Phils., a Jieda knight scooter from Ropali Trading and Active 110 Moped scooter from S.C. Kymco Pilipinas are at stake as hole-in-one prizes.

Proceeds of the 18-hole tourney which has Green Meadows (Yung Song Industrial Phils, Inc.) and the Tan Yan Kee Foundation,Inc. as major sponsos will be used for the many projects for charity of the Rotary Club of Diliman RI District 3780.



FEDERER celebrates his win over Gaston Gaudio of Argentina to reach the second round of the $M2.45 Masters Series. AFP

Roddick, Federer advance in Masters

MONTREAL, Canada—Andy Roddick joined Wimbledon champion Roger Federer in the second round of the $2.45-million Masters Series with a 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 comeback win over Xavier Malisse Tuesday night.

Roddick, the sixth seed who has earned 40 match wins this season for the third consecutive year, won his seventh straight match without a defeat against the pony-tailed Belgian.

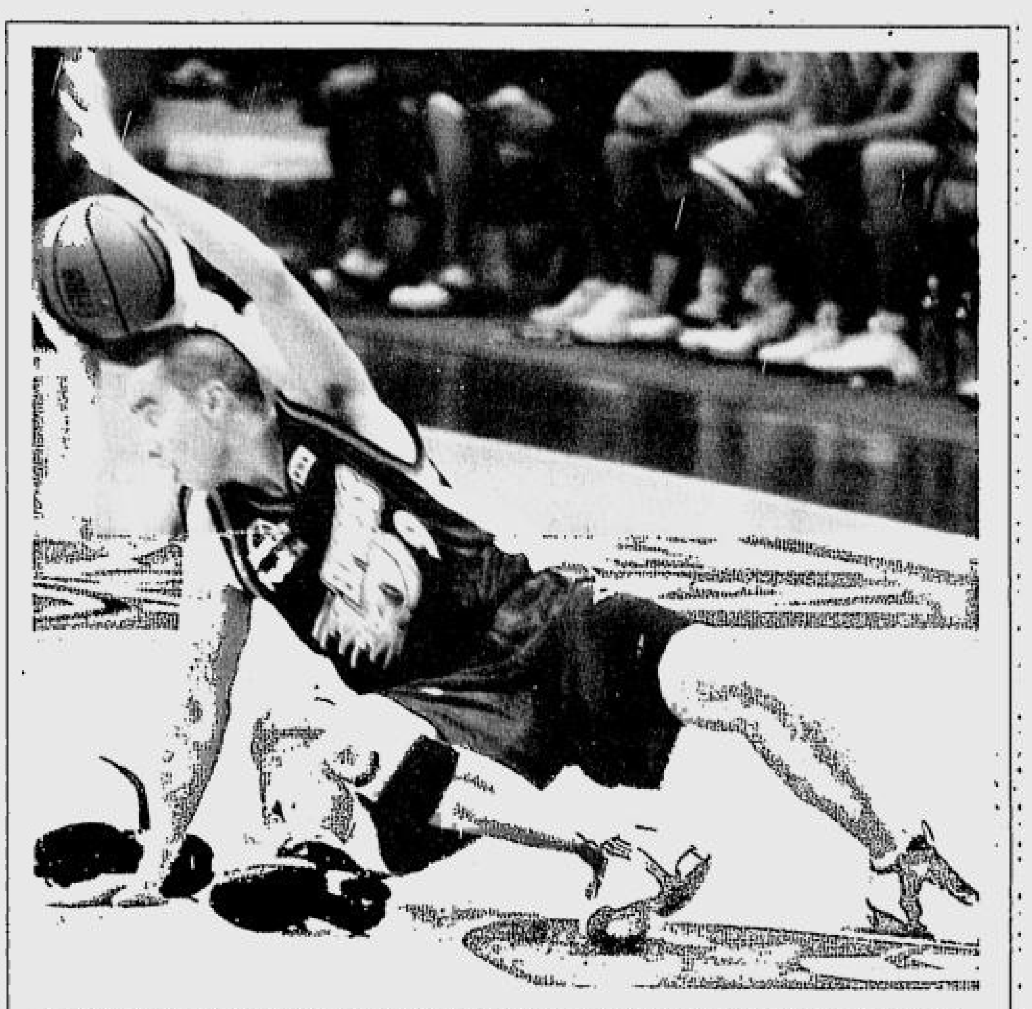
The victory puts Roddick, who lifted the Indianapolis title last month, into a second-round clash against Argentine Juan Chela.

"I had to get used to conditions said the winner of three titles in his past six tournaments. The balls here are heavier and the courts are a bit slower than what I've been used to.

"I was missing early on and he played beter at the start. I tried to put away as many shots as I could, but I didn't serve particularly well tonight." Third seed Federer salvaged the start of his hardcourt summer as he achieved first-round success with a 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 victory over Argentine Gaston Gaudio.

The victory in Federer's first match since losing the Gstaad final the week after his Wimbledon triumph was a close affair, with the third seed coming back from a break down in the third and eventually winning on his first match point.

He faced treble break points early in the final set, with his chances of carrying on after two career losses in Canada looking grim. *AFP*



SANG Won Jin of Yonsei battles for the loose ball against Gherome Ejercito of FedEx in their PBA game won by the Express. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Express nip Koreans as Arboleda shines

By June Navarro

GAMES TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
5 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuiller-RP vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—Novi Sad vs Red Bull

THE FEDEX Express needed a string of heroic deeds from Wynne Arboleda before pulling out a hard-earned 93-90 victory over Yonsei University of Korea last night in the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Arboleda completed a fastbreak play off his own steal and drilled in the marginal freethrows as the Express picked up their second win in three games to stay alive for a semifinal slot in Group A.

The 5-foot-10 Arboleda's crucial swipe from Lee Kwang-Jae in the final 50 seconds redeemed him from an ill-advised three-pointer he threw that almost had the Koreans escaping with their first victory in three games.

"After that miss, I knew I have to do something to make up for it," said Arboleda, who finished in double figures along with Yancy De Ocampo, Vergel Meneses and Renren Ritualo.

De Ocampo had a career-high 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as the 6-foot-9 pivotman mocked the internal defense of the Koreans.

Meneses unleashed some of his high-flying acts in a 20-point performance that elicited wild cheers from the sparse crowd.

The Koreans, despite missing five injured players, showed their best game to date and nearly pulled the rug from under the Express.

In the second game, San Miguel Beer toyed with the Magnolia-Jilin Tigers of China, 114-98, to remain on track for a semifinal slot.

Now at 2-1, the Beermen need to beat the Alaska Aces by at least four points on Sunday to advance to the semis outright.

Scores:

FEDEX 93—De Ocampo 23, Meneses 20, Ritualo 14, Arboleda 12, Ferriols 6, Codinera 6, Ejercito 5, Ortiguera 4, Yap 3, Rodriguez 0.

YONSEI 90 —Yang HJ 21, Jeon JG 16, Lee JH 13, Lee KJ 12, Jin SW 12, Baek JI 10,Kim JH 3, Choi ST 3

Quarters: 23-21, 44-49, 67-68, 93-90.

Brazilians down US dribblers; Cuban gymnast makes history

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—Marcelo scored 22 points and Guilherme added 19 as defending champion Brazil advanced to the gold medal match in men's basketball at the Pan American Games, beating the United States 92-80.

The Brazilians will face either Puerto Rico or host Dominican Republic in Wednesday's final. The United States will play the loser in the bronze medal match.

The Americans have not won a gold medal since 1983 — when the team included Michael Jordan, Chris Mullin and Wayman Tisdale.

Meanwhile, Cuban gymnast Erick Lopez won four gold medals to become the most successful athlete in Pan American Games history on Tuesday.

Lopez won golds in the pommel horse, rings, vault and parallel bars to add to the individual all-round gold he won on Sunday and the team gold he won on Saturday, taking his tally to 22 medals since he first competed in Havana in 1991. *AP*

Chinese-Taipei vs Pampanga; NBL title playoff gets support

THE PAMPANGA Bulls of the National Basketball League gets the first crack at the Chinese-Taipei dribblers in an exhibition match at 5 p.m. today at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center in San Fernando City, Pampanga. Admission is free.

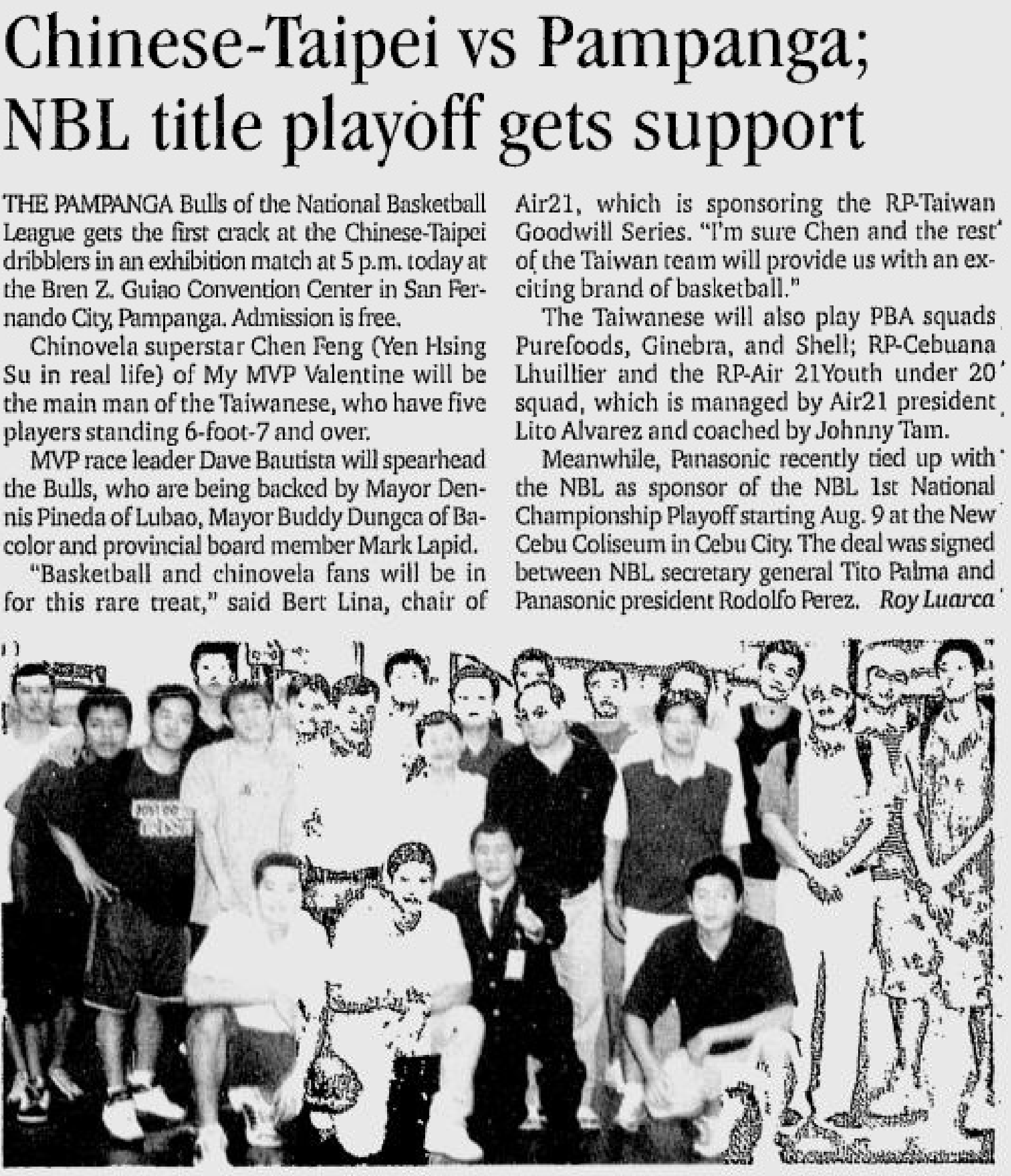
Chinovela superstar Chen Feng (Yen Hsing Su in real life) of My MVP Valentine will be the main man of the Taiwanese, who have five players standing 6-foot-7 and over.

MVP race leader Dave Bautista will spearhead the Bulls, who are being backed by Mayor Dennis Pineda of Lubao, Mayor Buddy Dungca of Bacolor and provincial board member Mark Lapid.

"Basketball and chinovela fans will be in for this rare treat," said Bert Lina, chair of Air21, which is sponsoring the RP-Taiwan Goodwill Series. "I'm sure Chen and the rest of the Taiwan team will provide us with an exciting brand of basketball."

The Taiwanese will also play PBA squads Purefoods, Ginebra, and Shell; RP-Cebuana Lhuillier and the RP-Air 21Youth under 20 squad, which is managed by Air21 president Lito Alvarez and coached by Johnny Tam.

Meanwhile, Panasonic recently tied up with the NBL as sponsor of the NBL 1st National Championship Playoff starting Aug. 9 at the New Cebu Coliseum in Cebu City. The deal was signed between NBL secretary general Tito Palma and Panasonic president Rodolfo Perez. *Roy Luarca*



THE CHINESE-TAIPEI basketball team is met by Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim and treasurer Tony Fabico upon their arrival at the Naia yesterday. ROGER MARGALLO

SPORTSWATCH

La Salle, San Beda triumph

REIGNING titlists La Salle Greenhills and San Beda routed their respective rivals last weekend in the Milo BEST SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament at the Xavier School courts. After walking over Marist School last Saturday, the La Sallians crushed the Bedans, 71-19, the next day to raise their record to 3-0 in Group A of the SBP competition. The Bedans walloped Don Bosco Makati, 115-67, and School of St. Anthony, 98-40, to post a 2-0 card in Group A of the Passerelle division, where UST leads with a 3-0 slate after surviving two scary outings.

Badminton tourney at Pioneer

THE FIRST Badminton invitational tournament will be held on Aug. 9-10 at the Pioneer Badminton courts in Mandaluyong City. Pioneer Badminton members and special guests will see action in the event, which will be capped by an awarding ceremony at Whistlestop Libis. The tourney is sponsored by RX 93.1, Whistlestop Libis, Wilson, Coca-Cola, Poweraid, San Miguel Beer, Velprint, Adidas, Timex, Gold's Gym, RFM Corp., Natasha, Drive Badminton Gear, Men's Zone, Regal-Lexber Homes, Businessworld, Pb Net and Yeheey.com.

Grand Prix ends Sunday

THE 2003 SVI-Petron Grand Prix ends Sunday with Jody Coseteng of Red Horse-San Miguel-Caltex seeking to formalize his claim to a fourth title in 10 years at the Subic International Raceway. Coseteng, who dominated eight of the previous 12 races, is way ahead in the overall standings going into the final two rounds of the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category. Finding little challenge in his Toyota Corolla, Coseteng is enjoying a 40-point lead over perennial contender Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA, 93-53.

Davao hosts Predator Cup

THE ADIDAS Predator Cup, a "four and seven-a-side" football competition for kids 6-to-12 years, kicked off last weekend in Tugbok, Davao City with 17 elementary schools participating. The Adidas festival was conducted by Erwin Protacio for the "Kasibulan 6-12" grassroots program of the Philippine Football Federation. Mintal Elementary School swept all divisions in the football festival. It beat Bago Oshiro, 2-1, in the 6-8 category; nipped Biao Guianga, 1-0, in the 9-10 category; and edged Vinzons, 3-2, in the 11-12 division. Kasibulan chair Johnny Romuladez said the Adidas Predator Cup would also be held this weekend in Gen Roxas, Calinan, Matina and Talomo districts.

Go for Goal lures 12 teams

BANAYBANAY, Davao Oriental—Twelve schools will compete in the provincial eliminations of the 20th season of the Coke Go for Goal under-16 football tournament tomorrow at the Banaybanay Central School field here. These are defending champion Maryknoll School of Lupon, Lupon School of Fisheries, Baqnaybanay National High, Matiao National High, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mati School of Arts and Trade, Banaybanay Central School, Lupon School of Arts and Trade and Lupon Central High School. Action starts after the 9 a.m. opening ceremony with Maryknoll School facing Mati Comprehensive High and San Isidro High meeting Mati School of Arts and Trade.

A second wind for Siodina

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

QUIETLY, Mario Siodina, that diminutive parbuster, has been making waves. Not here. Not in the United States. But in Japan.

Oh, yes, he did try to barge into the Senior Golf Tour of America. He made it—almost. A last-day collapse pulled Siodina down.

Back home from the United States, Siodina, the former winner of the President's Cup at Luisita and once known as the heir apparent of the legendary Ben Arda, did not sulk. He trained his guns at other shores. Japan was it. Siodina got there not by accident. He got there because of Hero Minami.

Last year, Minami opened the door for Siodina in the Japan Senior Tour. Hero used Siodina's golfing skills as passport to the Fancl Senior Classic, Japan's biggest tournament for senior golfers (50 and above). The Fancl board chair and president, 66-year-old Kenji Ikemori, is Minami's friend. Ikemori's motto: "The world's senior citizens must always be aggressive and dynamic so that the young will continually benefit from the wisdom of the elderly."

Minami knew Siodina's talent like the palm of his hand. "Mario is a good man," said Minami, who is into the international shipping business. "A very quiet person. Straight. Honest."

Minami brought his son to the Philippines some years back to work in a giant shipping firm owned by Minami's Filipino friend of 30 years. Since Minami and his Filipino friend, who is his business partner too, are avid golfers, Minami also wanted his son to learn golf. Minami's Filipino friend knew Siodina personally and, not long after, the trio developed a relationship that blossomed into one of the most beautiful friendships you will ever know.

"All because of my wish that my son learn how to play golf," said Minami, himself an 8-handicapper. "Golf, indeed, makes wonders for all of us."

But the biggest wonder of all was that Siodina got his baptism of fire in the Japan Senior Tour by getting himself seeded into the Fancl Senior Classic. That wonder (miracle/luck?) was through the efforts of Minami. (Fancl is Japan's biggest cosmetics firm, much bigger than the famed Shiseido and Kanebo. Fancl's products, distributed all over the world, are chemical-free.)

"Siodina's luck was, Ikemori-san is my friend," said Minami. "I was able to squeeze in Siodina in the Fancl Senior Classic last year without going through the qualifying stage." For his part, Siodina made sure he would not disappoint.

On his 36th hole in the tournament, Siodina needed a birdie to make the cut. He got it.

"When he made the birdie putt, it was like a boulder of rock was released from my chest," said Minami. "Now I can face Ikemori-san."

Siodina eventually finished 35th. Not bad for a rookie. He earned P150,000 but more importantly, he gained the respect of Ikemori, one of Japan's most respected persons.

Because of that finish, Siodina earned yet another coveted slot in this year's Japan Senior Tour. He was one of 23 from a field of 300 who made it as a regular campaigner in six majors and 11 other legs lined up for the year.

In his first tournament last May in the Castle Hills Open in Achie Prefecture, Siodina finished a fighting 6th and won P450,000. Last month, he wound up 37th in the Wellness Open held at the Nigata Prefecture for a still handsome prize of P150,000. On Aug. 21, the Fancl Senior Classic, Japan's biggest senior event, unfurls, with the winner pocketing $130,000 (almost 10 million pesos).

After the Fancl Classic, three more majors are scheduled in October—the Japan Pro Classic Oct. 1-4, PGA Philanthropy Oct. 16-19 and Japan Senior Open Oct. 23-26.

For now, Siodina's sights are on the Fancl Senior Classic. "I am ready for it," he told me when I saw him a while back at Villamor, honing his swing at the driving range. "Last year's experience will surely help me a lot."

Siodina, who will turn 55 in December, is one of the 40 lucky players seeded in the Fancl Pro-am. The day before that, 120 players will fight for 10 additional slots to the Pro-Am, where every pro is assured of a $500 pocket money to go with a top prize amounting to thousands of pesos.

Siodina's ranking going to the Fancl event is 18th. If he finishes 15th at the end of the season, he qualifies anew for next year's 17 tournaments.

He expressed his gratitude to Minami and Minami's Filipino business partner, a very low-key person but with a heart of a philanthropist, who hates publicity.

"Without them, I wouldn't have the luck that I have now," said Siodina. "Without them, I wouldn't know where I'd be today."

* * *

FASTBREAK. Upon the request of a dear friend of mine, I send birthday greetings today to Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Apolinario Exevea, a brand new golfer. "He is a good man and may he have many more birthdays to come," said my friend of the celebrator.

Super GM heads Subic Int'l chess foreign cast

SUPER GRANDMASTER Igor Miladinovic of Greece heads the cast of foreign players competing in the Subic International Chess Tournament from Sept. 14-25 at the Subic Legend Hotel.

The Yugoslav-born Miladinovic, the 1994 world junior champion, has an Elo rating of 2609. He'll be joined by fellow GMs Stuart Conquest (Elo 2560) of England and Robert Fontaine (2541) of France and International Masters Ni Hua (2333) of China and Jimmy Meng Liew-Chee (2533) of Malaysia.

Carrying the Philippine colors are GMs Eugene Torre, Rogelio "Joey" Antonio and Buenaventura "Bong" Villamayor and IMs Mark Paragua, Joseph Sanchez and Ronald Dableo, the Asian 3.2a Zone champion. They'll be joined by two other local IMs to be chosen by the organizing National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP).

Paragua, Sanchez and Dableo are currently campaigning in Europe in search of grandmaster results. The 19-year-old Paragua narrowly missed his second GM result in topping the recent XV Cannes Open, while Sanchez got his IM title when he ruled the Milano Open early this year. NCFP president lawyer Mat Defensor and secretary general lawyer Sammy Estimo said the tournament is part of the Philippine team's training for the 22nd Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam in December.

Estimo added that it was also the NCFP's way of helping local IMs obtain GM results. Format of the $10,000 (P540,000) tournament is single-round robin. It was under a similar format that Villamayor earned his GM title in the 2001 Equitable Classic held at the SSS Building in Quezon City.

TORRE

ANTONIO

Subic Legend last hosted an international tournament in 1998, when IM Rogelio Barcenilla missed a GM result by half a point. *Roy Luarca with a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

Sanchez co-leader

FILIPINO International Master Joseph Sanchez beat Flavio Perez of France in 36 moves of a Sicilian Defense-Short Attack variation to score his second straight win and share the lead in the Championnat de Nice International chess championship yesterday at the Grand Hotel Aston in Nice, France. Buddies Mark Paragua and Ronald Dableo drew their game as both posted 1.5 points. Sharing the lead with Sanchez were GM Igor Miladinovic of Greece, GM Vladimir Georgiev, GM Nikola Mitkov, GM Petal Genovv, GM Milko Povchev, GM Davor Komljenovic, Francisco.Calvacanti, Scala Lijubomir of Yugoslavia, Guillaume Tupet, Pierre Massimi, Thibault Noally, David Nazeri, Ouaheb Benoughidene, Agostino Redoglia and Jean-Baptiste Morlino.

Marathon goes to CDO

ANOTHER local record field is expected when the 27th National Milo Marathon hits its halfway mark in Cagayan de Oro for the 7th regional elimination race.

Following on the heels of last Sunday's qualifying race in Davao City which attracted 5,800 runners, local race organizer Meg Llamera is confident that they will exceed last year's turnout.

"We have been reading about the previous turnouts in the earlier Milo Marathon races and we campaigned hard to have a big field here in Cagayan de Oro" said Llamera who expects to have over 7,000 participants on Sunday.

Action will shift back to Luzon next Sunday with the regional race in Olongapo City.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1 – 1. Furthermore 2. Raging River 3. Better King

Race 2 – 1. Assunta de Rio 2. Hinobaan Boy 3. Good Partner 4. El Magnifico

Race 3 – 1. Sandata 2. Hazitmade 3. Golden Prince 4. Lucky El 5. Silver Lining

Race 4 – 1. Tini Bambini 2. Bullish Dream 3. Ashanti 4. Yonder Girl 5. Candon's Pride

Race 5 – 1.Rose and Toy 2.Ride the Lightning 3.Queen Ramasas 4.Native Talent

Race 6 – 1. Slew's Pleasure 2. Hezabellagio 3. Celebration 4. Expediter 5. Silver Dollar

Race 7 – 1. Bukambibig 2. Princess Ann/Pep Up 3. Ahead of Time 4. Habagat 5. Standout

Race 8 – 1. Plaridel Hero 2. Well Noted 3. Fair Go 4. Heartland 5. Ocean Magic

Race 9 – 1. Earth Angel 2. Bring Home D Bacon 3. American Beauty 4. Thunder Speed 5. Respect the Ace 6. Tribeca

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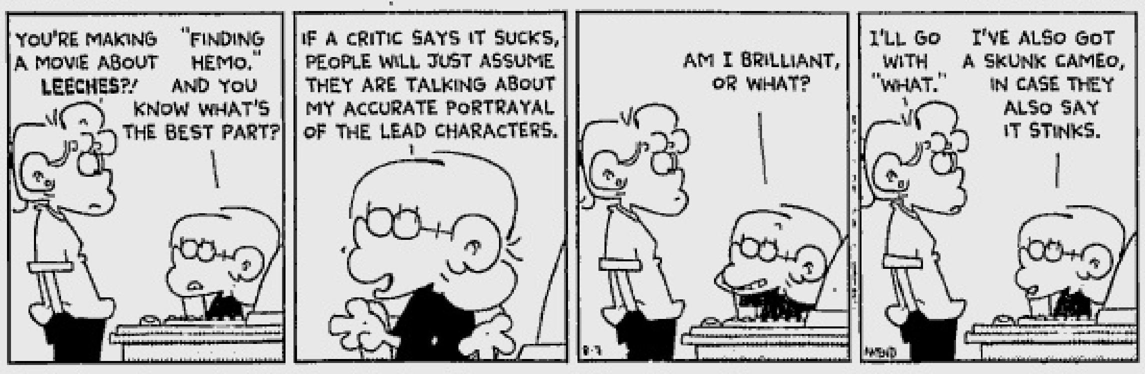
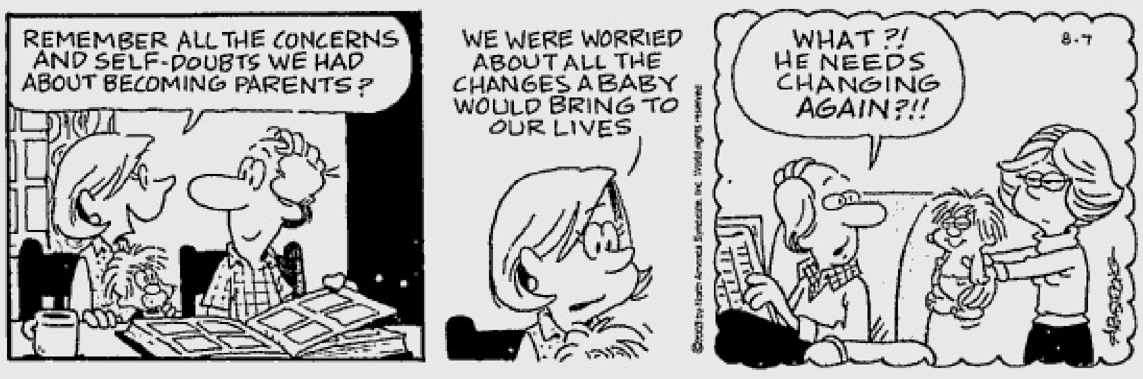
BY BILL AMEND


YOU'RE MAKING A MOVIE ABOUT LEECHES?!
"FINDING HEMO." AND YOU KNOW WHAT'S THE BEST PART?
IF A CRITIC SAYS IT SUCKS, PEOPLE WILL JUST ASSUME THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT MY ACCURATE PORTRAYAL OF THE LEAD CHARACTERS.
AM I BRILLIANT, OR WHAT?
I'LL GO WITH "WHAT."
I'VE ALSO GOT A SKUNK CAMEO, IN CASE THEY ALSO SAY IT STINKS.
8-7
AMEND

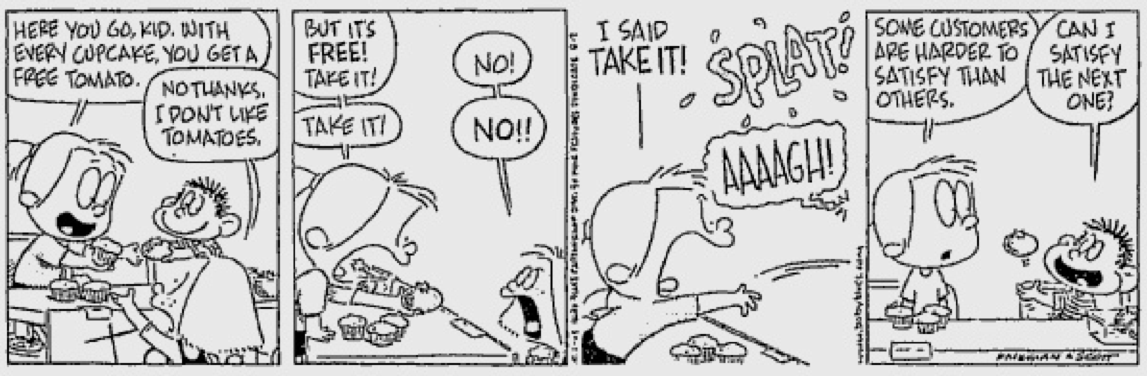
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


REMEMBER ALL THE CONCERNS AND SELF-DOUBTS WE HAD ABOUT BECOMING PARENTS?
WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT ALL THE CHANGES A BABY WOULD BRING TO OUR LIVES
WHAT?! HE NEEDS CHANGING AGAIN?!!
8-7
ARMSTRONG

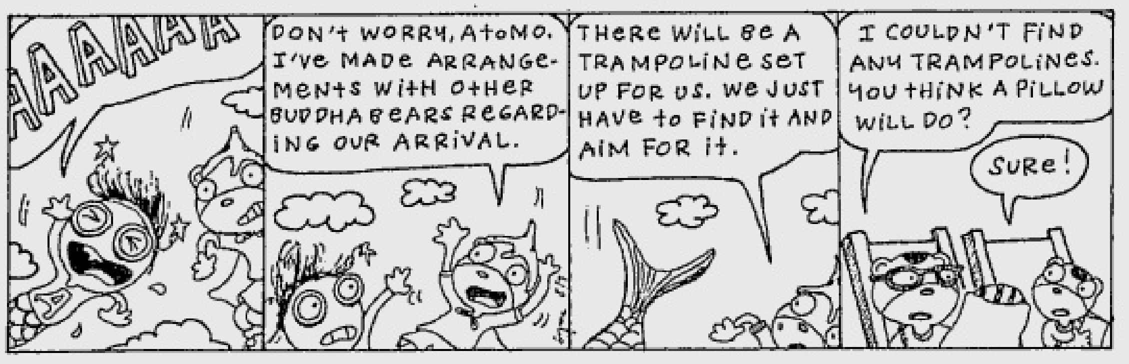
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HERE YOU GO, KID. WITH EVERY CUPCAKE, YOU GET A FREE TOMATO.
NO THANKS, I DON'T LIKE TOMATOES.
BUT IT'S FREE! TAKE IT!
TAKE IT!
NO!
NO!!
I SAID TAKE IT!
SPLAT!
AAAAGH!
SOME CUSTOMERS ARE HARDER TO SATISFY THAN OTHERS.
CAN I SATISFY THE NEXT ONE?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AAAAAAA
DON'T WORRY, ATOMO. I'VE MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER BUDDHA BEARS REGARDING OUR ARRIVAL.
THERE WILL BE A TRAMPOLINE SET UP FOR US. WE JUST HAVE TO FIND IT AND AIM FOR IT.
I COULDN'T FIND ANY TRAMPOLINES. YOU THINK A PILLOW WILL DO?
SURE!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are highly theatrical and dramatic. You are also mysterious and secretive, and this makes you capable of sleuthing or research. Invariably, you are drawn to the unusual. Your social skills are wonderful. People think you're witty, clever and entertaining. This year focuses on your closest relationships—especially romance.
Birthdate of: Garrison Keillor, radio personality; David Duchovny, actor; Charlize Theron, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't get caught up in a phony idea about how selfless you are to your children or your romantic sweetheart. Today is the classic day to kid yourself and get all puffed up about nothing.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): One moment everybody is fighting, the next moment everybody is pretending to be Mother Theresa. Don't fall for pie-in-the-sky promises from anyone.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Perhaps you have dreams of running away to a foreign land to be a missionary to save the heathens. Today fosters this kind of thing. Go back to your daytime television.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You are really tempted to spend money on luxurious items or something particularly comfy. Great idea if you can afford it. If not, think twice.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You could be really deceived in a close relationship today. Everything looks like it's hearts and flowers, but could this be a cover for something completely different? Think about it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You don't have to be a martyr at work to feel worthwhile. And don't let anybody pull this on you, either. Get real. We are all equal little bits in this Big Soup together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Beware of picturing yourself in a love relationship that is sheer perfection. Maybe you're the one who does all the giving. This is probably a big ego game involving control.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you are really concerned for someone, today might be the day when you can act unselfishly in a meaningful way. However, examine your motivations to find out what they truly are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): There's a lot of confused thinking today. You might get caught up with a weird, idealistic philosophy that is totally impractical. Watch out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't give away the farm today. You're tempted to act selflessly and generously on behalf of someone else. But there's Vaseline on your lens.

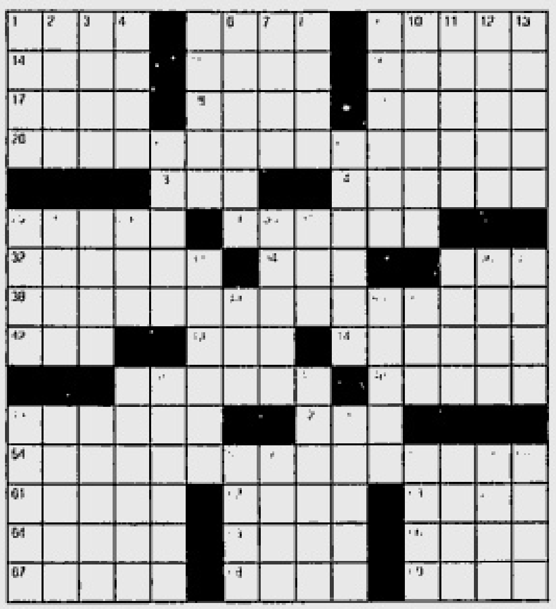
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is not a good day to daydream about your loved one. You have a strong tendency to see things in very unrealistic terms today. (Too much smoke and mirrors.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone might want to help you at work today. Just make sure there are no strings attached. Genuine help is unconditional.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Son of Eve
5 Tiny particle
9 Egyptian patriarchs
14 Philosopher Descartes
15 Ms. Sorvino
16 Viewpoint
17 Parakeet's pad
18 __ Roberts U.
19 Infantile paralysis
20 Forecaster's fall concern
23 Yes without a word
24 Fuel rating
25 Coen brother
29 Meet parts
32 Sets free
34 Group of docs
35 Studio apt.
38 Meteorologist's concern
42 Part of APB
43 Driving spot
44 Holy
45 Most up-to-date
48 Takes five
49 Tried hard
52 Sailor's org.
54 George Clooney movie
61 Varnish ingredient
62 Sommer of "A Shot in the Dark"
63 Ostrich cousin
64 In the middle of
65 Disfigure
66 Lends a hand
67 Golf club
68 Sothern and Miller
69 Fiddlesticks!

DOWN
1 St. Louis feature
2 Steady guy
3 Art print: abbr.
4 Lecherous look
5 Sunoco rival
6 Diatribe
7 Algerian port
8 Cob or drake
9 Bearing
10 Balloons up
11 Hobby-shop wood
12 Negative particle
13 Sharon of "Basic Instinct"
21 Word with city or tube
22 Locating devices
25 Jazzy Fitzgerald
26 Implement
27 Bay at the moon
28 Egyptian cobra
30 Rose holders
31 Aussie non-flier
33 Hunting dog
35 Gets off track
36 Stocking stuffers
37 Cultural vagaries
39 Witness
40 Works for
41 Top pilot
45 Running with ease
46 Retaliate
47 Put to bed
49 Stable bedding
50 Repetitive motif
51 Make fairway repairs
53 Wineglass features
55 Govt. disaster agency
56 Vivacity
57 Bunker on a golf course
58 John Glenn's state
59 Start again from scratch
60 Col. Potter's command



By Jim Page
New York, NY

8/7/03

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	R	E	■	F	O	A	M	■	S	O	A	P
C	A	N	A	L	■	O	K	R	A	■	T	U	N	E
O	N	T	H	E	F	R	I	T	Z	■	E	T	N	A
W	F	F	■	V	O	T	E	■	U	P	R	O	A	R
■	■	■	V	E	R	Y	■	B	R	I	E	F	■	■
O	R	I	E	N	T	■	U	N	K	N	O	W	N	S
V	A	N	E	S	■	S	T	O	A	T	■	H	O	P
O	D	D	S	■	[illegible]	L	I	M	S	■	[illegible]	A	V	E
I	I	I	■	[illegible]	C	A	L	F	■	P	E	C	A	N
D	I	S	U	N	I	T	E	■	B	A	N	K	E	D
■	■	A	B	U	S	E	■	N	O	T	E	■	■	■
I	[illegible]	R	O	R	E	■	A	O	N	E	■	[illegible]	A	G
A	U	R	A	■	O	F	F	B	A	L	A	N	C	E
P	L	A	T	■	R	E	A	L	■	L	L	A	M	A
S	A	Y	S	■	S	E	R	E	■	A	F	T	E	R

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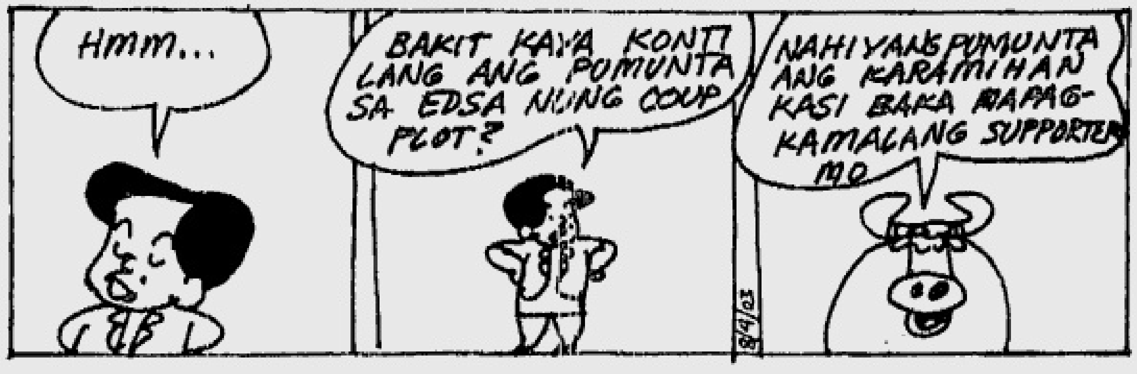
8/7/03

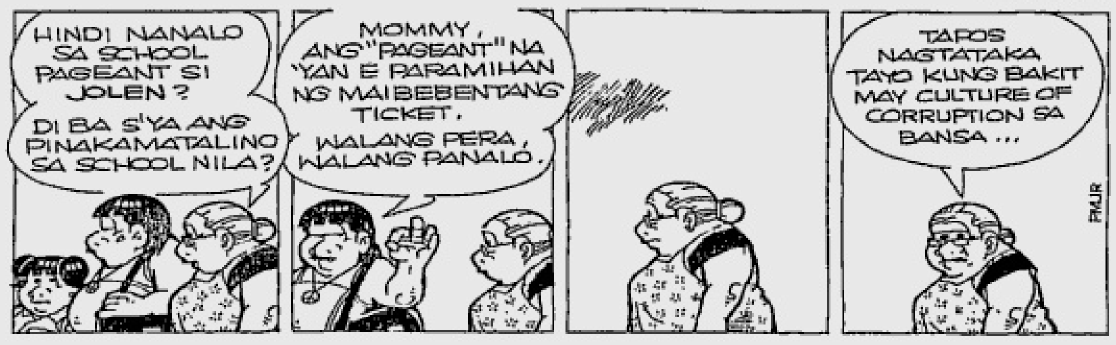
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


Hmm...
BAKIT KAYA KONTI LANG ANG PUMUNTA SA EDSA NUNG COUP PLOT?
NAHIYANG PUMUNTA ANG KARAMIHAN KASI BAKA MAPAGKAMALANG SUPPORTER MO
8/4/03

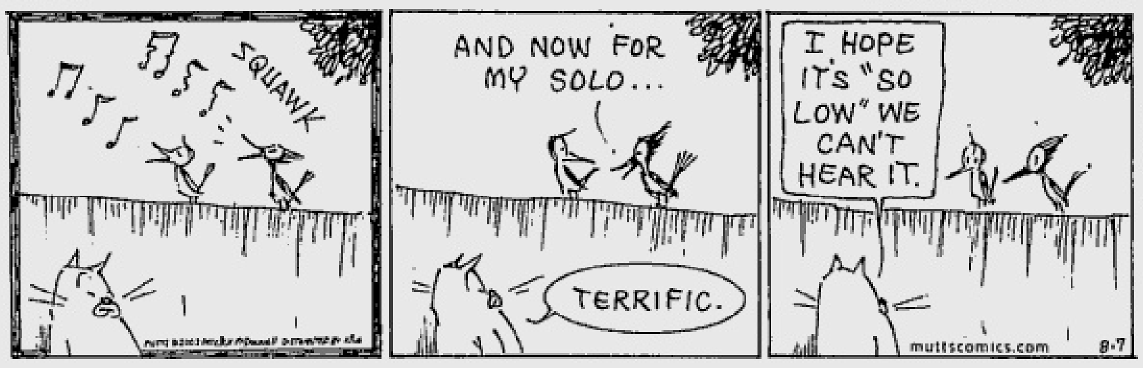
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI NANALO SA SCHOOL PAGEANT SI JOLEN?
DI BA S'YA ANG PINAKAMATALINO SA SCHOOL NILA?
MOMMY, ANG "PAGEANT" NA 'YAN E PARAMIHAN NG MAIBEBENTANG TICKET.
WALANG PERA, WALANG PANALO.
TAPOS NAGTATAKA TAYO KUNG BAKIT MAY CULTURE OF CORRUPTION SA BANSA...
PMJR

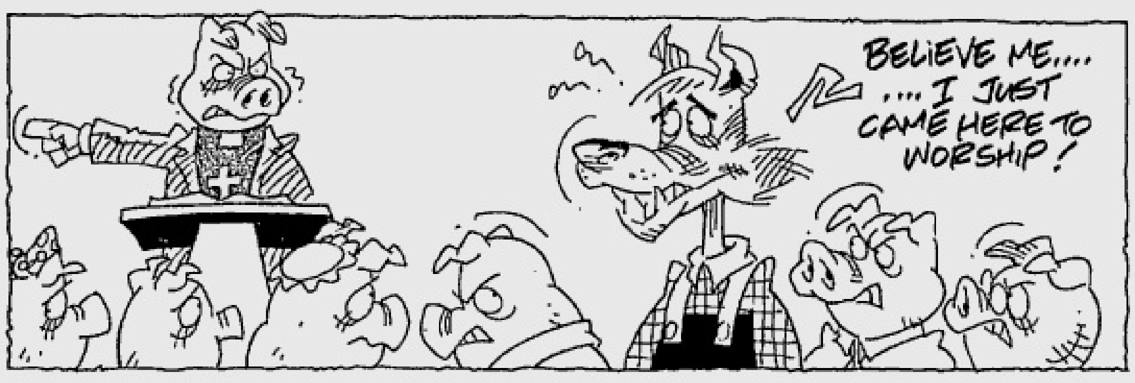
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SQUAWK
AND NOW FOR MY SOLO...
TERRIFIC.
I HOPE IT'S "SO LOW" WE CAN'T HEAR IT.
muttscomics.com
8-7

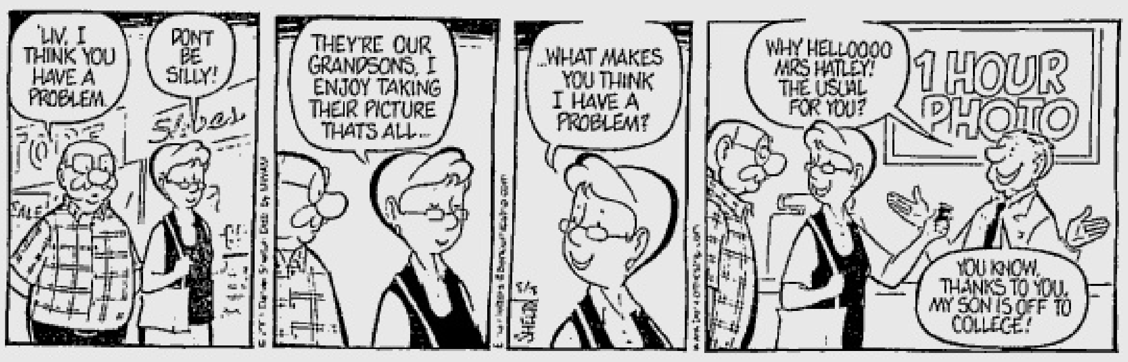
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BELIEVE ME.... ....I JUST CAME HERE TO WORSHIP!

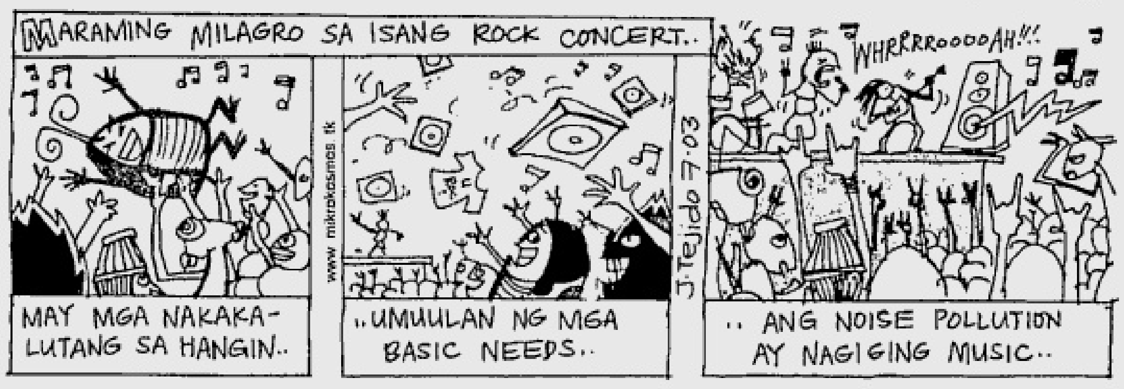
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LIV, I THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM.
DON'T BE SILLY!
THEY'RE OUR GRANDSONS, I ENJOY TAKING THEIR PICTURE THAT'S ALL...
...WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I HAVE A PROBLEM?
WHY HELLOOOO MRS HATLEY! THE USUAL FOR YOU?
1 HOUR PHOTO
YOU KNOW, THANKS TO YOU, MY SON IS OFF TO COLLEGE!

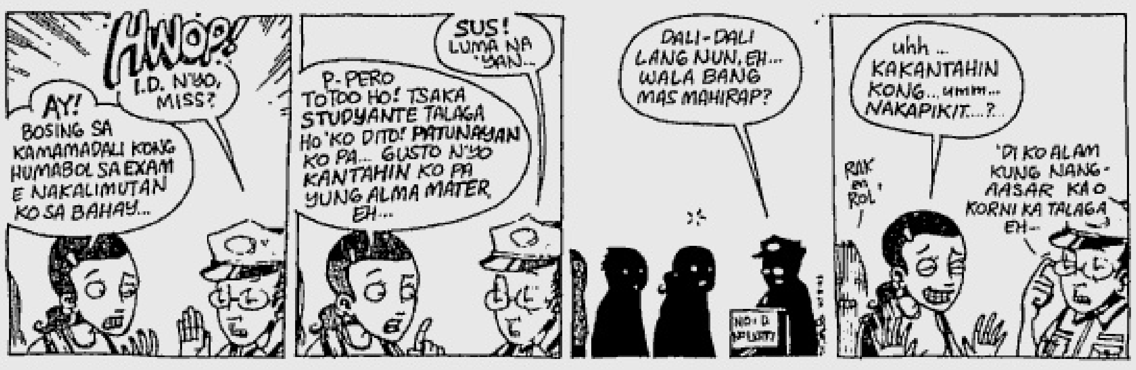
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MARAMING MILAGRO SA ISANG ROCK CONCERT..
MAY MGA NAKAKALUTANG SA HANGIN..
..UMUULAN NG MGA BASIC NEEDS..
WHRRRROOOOAH!!!
.. ANG NOISE POLLUTION AY NAGIGING MUSIC..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J.Tejido 7.03

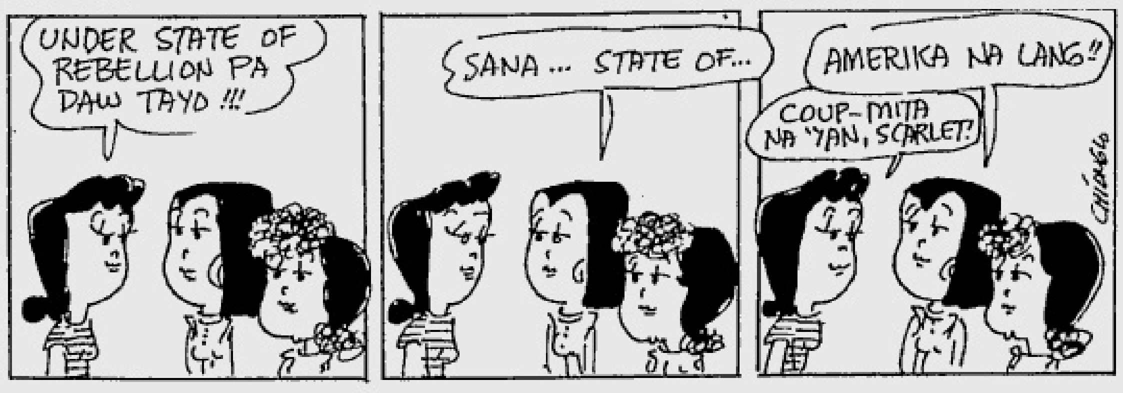
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOP!
I.D. N'YO, MISS?
AY! BOSING SA KAMAMADALI KONG HUMABOL SA EXAM E NAKALIMUTAN KO SA BAHAY...
SUS! LUMA NA 'YAN...
P-PERO TOTOO HO! TSAKA STUDYANTE TALAGA HO 'KO DITO! PATUNAYAN KO PA... GUSTO N'YO KANTAHIN KO PA YUNG ALMA MATER, EH...
DALI-DALI LANG NUN, EH... WALA BANG MAS MAHIRAP?
uhh... KAKANTAHIN KONG... umm... NAKAPIKIT...?
RAK EN ROL!
'DI KO ALAM KUNG NANG-AASAR KA O KORNI KA TALAGA EH...

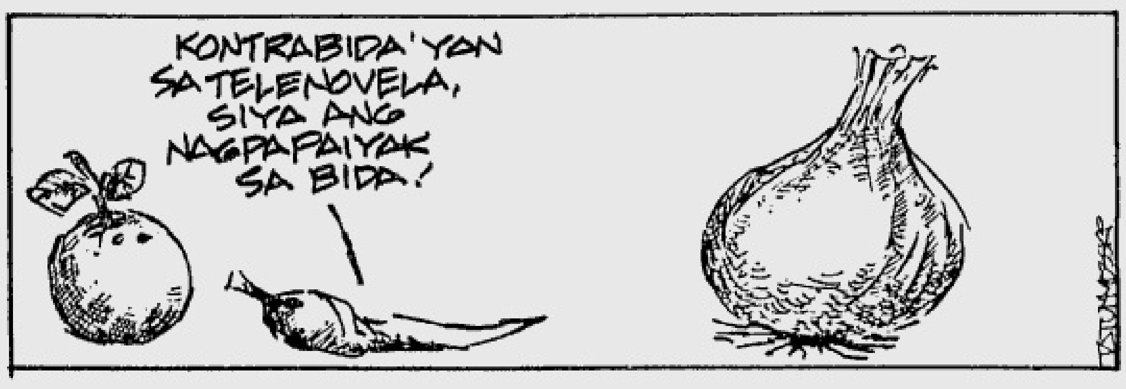
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


UNDER STATE OF REBELLION PA DAW TAYO!!!
SANA... STATE OF...
AMERIKA NA LANG!!
COUP-MITA NA 'YAN, SCARLET!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KONTRABIDA 'YON SA TELENOVELA, SIYA ANG NAGPAPAIYAK SA BIDA!

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

New World Renaissance's sensational bridal event

THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel presents "A Renaissance Wedding III", a spectacular bridal fair that shall feature impressive exhibits of wedding finery and services, displays of haute couture bridal gowns and alluring gems, fashion shows, and many other exciting activities.

Starting Aug. 11, the lobby shall be transformed into an exhibit of astonishing bridal gowns, exquisite jewelry by Jewelmer and breathtaking cars from BMW to tempt the senses.

On the 16th, 6:30 p.m., the Bridal Fashion Show will be held at the lobby featuring the different impressive styles of the country's talented designers capturing the essence of the modern bride. On Aug. 17, the Salon Fashion Show will parade gorgeous Jewelmer pieces and creations by Eric Pineda, New Yorker Gown Salon, Joel Bautista, Edwin Uy, and Suzie Bonaobra.

Of course the bridal fair would not be complete without the Dove Bridal Shower featuring Chiqui Hollman-Yulo on Aug. 16, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Bocarinos restaurant. This special "girls-only" event is open to all brides-to-be as they prepare for that very special day.

Raffle prizes await those who come to the bridal fair on Aug. 16 and 17. Win accommodations at the Pearl of the Pacific in Boracay and El Nido in Palawan or an elegant south sea pearl pendant from Jewelmer.

"A Renaissance Wedding III" is held in cooperation with: Jewelmer, Dove, Jones Soda, 92.3 Joey, 89.1 Wave, 88.3 Citylite, Flowers & Foliage, Fern Leaf, Audio Compulsion, Glisaz Audio Video Corporation, Weddings@Work.Com, Balloon Concepts, Jesi Mendez Salon, Eve's Hair Studio. For more information, call the New World Renaissance Hotel at 811-6888.

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159/ fax (02) 867-1185
www.barcelo-asia.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18/ Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarin-oriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

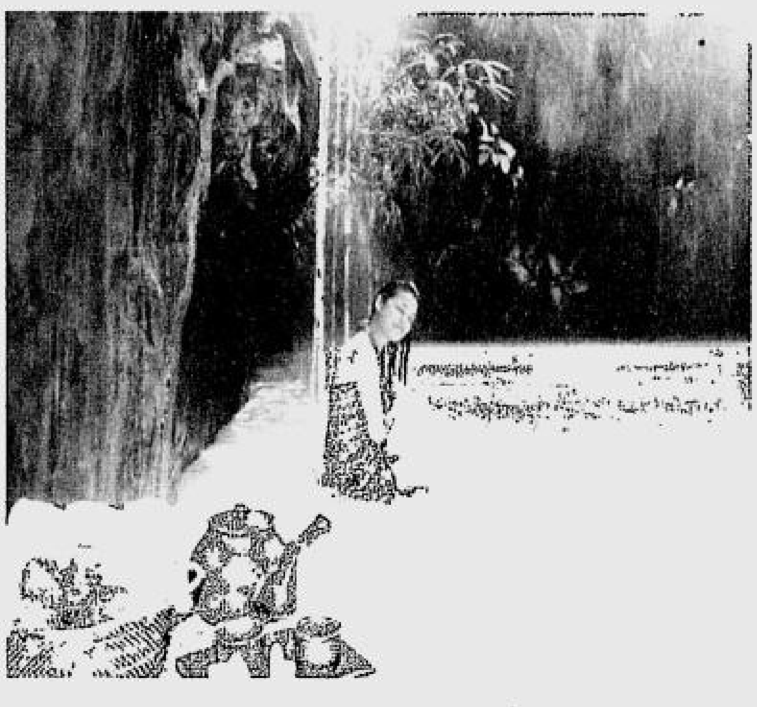
City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Nagulian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209



Pamper yourself

THE MOST acclaimed resort in the country just got a little better. Visitors of Plantation Bay Resort and Spa in Cebu continue to rave about Mogambo Springs, a health and relaxation spa unlike any other.

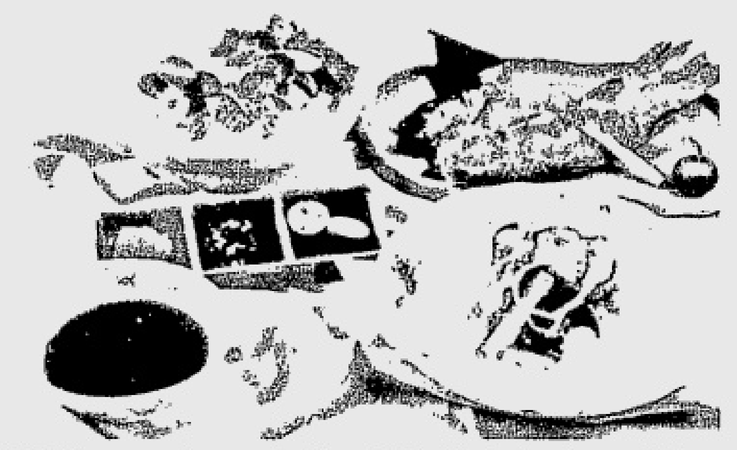
The spa's setting is uniquely charming, evocative of a mountain canyon with its own thundering waterfalls, creek, and fog-like mist. Open your skin's pores and float away your cares in a soothing hot spring; rejuvenate your body in a stimulating mineral bath; and enjoy a vigorous hydromassage in the main waterfall basin. Then move on to a dry-heat sauna to sweat out the toxins, and from there on to your choice of classic massage, reflexology, aromatherapy, or body scrub.

Built with the same flair, subdued elegance, and attention to detail as the resort itself, Mogambo Springs will charm and delight your spirit even as your body enjoys a spa treatment comparable to the best anywhere.

Next time you have a few days free, give yourself a real treat, and visit one of the world's great spas - Mogambo Springs at Plantation Bay.

For more information, visit the new Manila office at Room 906, National Life Insurance Building, 6762 Ayala Avenue in Makati City. Call 844-5024/25, for reservations, or visit www.plantationbay.com.

Lapu-Lapu fare



LAPU-Lapu or Grouper in English is one of the most widely sought fish in the Philippines. And because it is in season this month, Benkay Japanese restaurant of Dusit Hotel Nikko will feature this delectable species from Aug. 1 to 31.

Aptly called "Lapu-lapu Fare", the restaurant will offer a set menu as well as an ala carte menu to diners.

On the ala carte menu are Hata-Konbu-Zime (slices of fresh *lapu-lapu* with essence of Japanese kelp served with prawn sauce), Hata-Nanban-Zuke (marinated *lapu-lapu* fish in spicy vinegar), Hata-Oroshi-Nabe (fresh *lapu-lapu*, chicken, assorted vegetables and noodles cooked in a radish broth served with ponzu sauce), Hata-Wakasa-Yaki (fresh *lapu-lapu* grilled with wakasa sauce), Hata-Kani-Shinjou-Hasami-Age (deep fried *lapu-lapu* with crab meat and vegetables served with tempura sauce).

The set menu on the other hand is a sumptuous 6-course meal pegged at only P1,000 ++. For queries and reservations, call the Benkay Japanese restaurant at 867-3333 extension 3343 to 3345. Offers are available for lunch and dinner.

Iloilo's pride: Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel

Found at the heart of the "museum city", the Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel has become one of Iloilo's foremost landmarks. For its excellent service, it has earned the distinction of the Department of Tourism's Kalakbay Award 2000 for "Hotel of the Year for Western Visayas." The hotel has a number of food and beverage outlets offering a variety of international to native Filipino cuisine to suit your discriminating palate. For recreation, fitness activities can be experienced at Clark Hatch fitness center or a relaxing lap at the Olympic-size swimming pool. The hotel is well-located only 15 minutes away from the Iloilo Airport.

To complement its services and facilities, the Conference and Meeting Package was created to give convention organizers the flexibility in holding conferences and meetings in the hotel's numerous function rooms and Convention Center. Priced at only P3,000 net per person (for single occupancy) and P2,000 net per person (for twin sharing occupancy). For a minimum guarantee of 20 persons, the "Conference and Meeting Package" includes overnight accommodation in a De Luxe Room, buffet breakfast, set lunch and set dinner, AM and PM snacks and free flowing coffee or tea during the function. Conference amenities include whole day use of the function room, complimentary use of the audio equipment, overhead projector, whiteboard and flipchart, use of VCD and other materials. This limited offer is valid until Dec. 31.

For inquiries on the Conference and Meeting Package and other special offers of the hotel, call its Manila sales office at 817-6392 or 867 1159. Visit www.barcelo-asia.com.

New business lunch menu at Prince Albert Rotisserie

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's famed Prince Albert Rotisserie offers its new business lunch menu for businessmen on the go. Offerings vary weekly and are reasonably priced at P650 per person for a 2-course menu and P800 per person for a 3-course menu exclusive of service and local government taxes. Business lunch suggestions for Aug. 11 to 15 are the following: Cappuccino Broccoli for Soup; Rock Lobster Salad with French Bean Strawberry Dressing or Tuna Tartare with Aspic Tomato on a Celery Cream Dressing or Duck Breast Carpaccio with Spinach and Arugula Salad scented with Sesame Oil with Shaving of Parmesan for Appetizers; Lacquered Sea Bass served with Red Cabbage Confit with Green Apples and Glaze Sauce or Pan-fried Flounder Fillet with Grenobloise Garnish and Quenelle of Pumpkin Risotto or Roasted Gindara with Thyme Bellpepper Confit with Olive Oil and Fricassé of Potatoes and Bacon or Duck Leg Confit with Sauteed Potatoes and Herb Salad or Braised Veal Shank with Asparagus and Tomatoes or Grilled Rib Eye served with Gratin Dauphinois Red Wine Sauce for the Main Course; and Caramel Mousse with Filling of Hazelnut and Orange Butter Sauce for Dessert. A choice of freshly brewed coffee or tea comes with the meal.

Prince Albert Rotisserie is open Monday to Friday for lunch and Monday to Saturday for dinner. It is best to reserve a table in advance. For reservations, call 815-9711 local 262.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 NAKED WEAPON
2 THE IN-LAWS
3 TOMB RAIDER 2
4 BAD BOYS II

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 THE IN-LAWS
BULLETPROOF MONK
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TOMB RAIDER 2 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
4 MY LITTLE EYE
5 HOLES
6 BAD BOYS II
7 DARKWATER

GB1 GREENBELT 1
ArtFilm 1 DOUBLE VISION (Exclusive) 12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00
2 BAD BOYS II 11:30 2:30 5:30 8:30
APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG - BACK2BACK Aug. 28 - 9PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE IN-LAWS 12:05 2:20 4:35 6:50 9:05 11:20
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BAD BOYS II 12:30 3:15 6:00 8:45 11:30
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 DOWN W/ LOVE 1:50 4:00 6:10 8:20 10:30
GUARANTEED SEATS 4 BULLETPROOF MONK 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:10 9:20 11:30
GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TOMB RAIDER 2 1:20 3:50 [illegible]

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
THX 1 BAD BOYS II
2 TOMB RAIDER 2
3 THE IN-LAWS
4 DOWN W/ LOVE
5 BULLETPROOF MONK

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) NAKED WEAPON
2 (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER-2
4 (GOLD)(DTS ES) TOMB RAIDER-2
5 (GOLD)(DOLBY EX) THE IN LAWS
6 (GOLD)(SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
7 (GOLD)(DOLBY EX) BULLET PROOF MONK
8 DOWN WITH LOVE
9 DARK WATER
10 TERMINATOR - 3

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SA MOTEL
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 TOMB RAIDER-2

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 NAKED WEAPON
3 SNAKE LADY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BAD BOYS-2
5 MOTEL

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 SNAKE LADY
4 MOTEL
5 THE IN LAWS
6 BAD BOYS-2

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 BAD BOYS-2
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503
BAD BOYS-2

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TERMINATOR -3
2 MASAMANG UGAT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1
2 BAD BOYS-2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) NAKED WEAPON
4 RESERVE
5 SNAKE LADY
6 MOTEL
7 (DTS) THE IN LAWS
8 (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
9 (DOLBY) BULLET PROOF MONK

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 MOTEL
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 BULLET PROOF MONK
6 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
7 (DTS) NAKED WEAPON
8 SNAKE LADY
9 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 (SDDS) BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 (DTS) BAD BOYS-2
4 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
5 MOTEL

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) BAD BOYS-2
4 MOTEL
5 (SDDS) NAKED WEAPON

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BAD BOYS-2

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson MOTEL
Lords RAMPADORA
Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 BAD BOYS-2
2 TOMB RAIDER-2
3 MOTEL
4 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
2 THE IN LAWS
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 MOTEL
5 NAKED WEAPON

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 , 879.2029
1 MOTEL
2 WISH MASTER

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 MOTEL
2 SNAKE LADY
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BULLET PROOF MONK
4 (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
5 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2
6 THE IN LAWS
7 NAKED WEAPON

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926
1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7303
1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2
3 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
4 DUMB & DUMBERER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 DANCER IN THE DARK
2 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2
4 DUMB & DUMBERER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 IMPOSTOR
2 TOMB RADER-2
3 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 IMPOSTOR
3 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER-2
2 (DTS) LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
2 SUGAT
3 (DTS) SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4 WILD BUTTERFLY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
2 SEX & ZEN-2
3 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER-2
4 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
5 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGER MIND

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3 UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER-2
4 BULLET PROF MONK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 TOMB RAIDER-2
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0798
1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 BULLET PROF MONK
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 DANCER IN THE DARK

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121
1 IMPOSTOR
2 PIGLET THE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

THE IN-LAWS
NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
2 IN-LAWS
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 NAKED WEAPON
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 BULLETPROOF MONK
7 MOTEL
8 TERMINATOR 3

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 NAKED WEAPON
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 MOTEL
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 SNAKE LADY
7 BULLETPROOF MONK
8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9 IN-LAWS
10 LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 MOTEL
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 NAKED WEAPON
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 IN-LAWS
9 BAD BOYS 2
10 LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
11 LLIZZIE MCGUIRE
12 DARK WATER

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 BULLETPROOF MONK
3 MY LITTLE EYE
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 BAD BOYS 2
7 MOTEL
8 SNAKE LADY
9 DARK WATER
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED
11 TERMINATOR 3
12 IN-LAWS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 BULLETPROOF MONK 2
5 MY LITTLE EYE
6 HOLES
7 DARK WATER
8 NAKED WEAPON
9 IN-LAWS
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 SNAKE LADY
12 MOTEL

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 MOTEL
4 NAKED WEAPON
5 IN-LAWS
6 MY LITTLE EYE
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888
1 NAKED WEAPON
2 SNAKE LADY
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 IN LAWS
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 DARK WATER
10 MOTEL

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 TERMINATOR 3
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DUMB & DUMBERER
6 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
7 IMPOSTOR
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 DEATH WATCH
2 RESERVED
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 RESERVED
8 MASAMANG UGAT

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 DEATH WATCH
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
5 IMPOSTOR
6 BAD BOYS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 IN-LAWS
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 MOTEL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 IN-LAWS
3 MOTEL
4 BULLETPROOF MONK

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DEATH WATCH
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DUMB & DUMBERER
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM BICUTAN
776-3055
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 MOTEL
3 IN-LAWS
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 BAD BOYS 2
11:10 FS/11:20 MF/2:15/5:10/8:05/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:35 END

2 IN-LAWS
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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THX /All Digital

1 BAD BOYS 2 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 THX
2 THE IN-LAWS 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00
3 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
4 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
5 NAKED WEAPON 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
6 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
7 TERMINATOR 3 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
8 MY LITTLE EYE 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
9 HOLES 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
10 SNAKE LADY 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 (level cinema) Mon.- Fri. / 10am - 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536-7809-1
1 THE IN-LAWS 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40
2 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
3 MIRANDA 10:15, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
4 MY LITTLE EYE 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 NAKED WEAPON 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40
6 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Metro East Marcos Hway 682-8193/826
1 TERMINATOR 3
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 TOMB RAIDER 2
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 DANCER IN THE DARK
7 THE IN-LAWS
8 SNAKE LADY

Novaliches 682-8193/826
1 TOMB RAIDER 2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 SNAKE LADY
5 THE IN-LAWS
6 NAKED WEAPON
7 MAGKAPATID/TUXEDO
8 TERMINATOR 3

Malabon 288-095/257
1 MOTEL
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 NAKED WEAPON
4 TOMB RAIDER 2

Star Mills San Fernando, Pamp. (045)875-19 (045)961-527
1 BULLET PROOF MONK
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3 IMPOSTOR
4 WILD BUTTERFLY
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER 2

Imus 471-818 875-383
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 THE IN-LAWS
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 MOTEL

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-090
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 WILD BUTTERFLY
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 RING-0

Bacolod 441-0453-04
1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 TOMB RAIDER 2
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED
6 MASAMANG UGAT

Iloilo 336-8077-7
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 TOMB RAIDER 2
6 DEATHWATCH

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Tex Ordoñez: A new star...

From page A26

original music by **Jesse Lucas**, "Darna" also stars INQUIRER columnist **Tim Yap** and **JM Rodriguez** alternating as DJ Dalang. I found out that the singing parts were assigned only to Valentina and her boy toys.

Valentina's role was originally supposed to be shared by **Chin Chin Gutierrez** and **Jenine Desiderio**. But I've confirmed that when Jenine learned the producers (Ballet Philippines) decided to make Time cover girl Chin Chin open the show, Jenine backed out in the middle of rehearsals. The producers called up Tex's well-loved manager **Ricky Gallardo** and asked if she was willing to take over three weeks before opening night.

Perhaps one of the highlights of "Darna" is when Valentina sings her love ballad for the man she loves, whose eyes are unfortunately fixated on Narda, Valentina's arch-rival. Tex sung the song "Nasaan Ka?" so beautifully it moved most of the audience to tears.

I guess Tex's advantage is that aside from being an awesome singer, she's also a credible actress. I bet it wouldn't be long before the important people in the entertainment industry discover the gem that is Tex Ordoñez.

Personal

Happy Birthday to a dear friend—Gary V. The smiles of all the people around you are a reflection of your kindness. Knowing you and Angeli has been such a blessing.

Warm birthday greetings to one guy friend I can always run to—**Bobet Alip**.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MOTEL
Ali 2	SNAKE LADY
Ali 3	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	IN-LAWS
Ali 7	NAKED WEAPON

ARANETA COLISEUM

AUG 07	UAAP GAMES
AUG 09	UAAP GAMES
AUG 14	UAAP GAMES
AUG 16	UAAP GAMES
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MOTEL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MOTEL
B	SNAKE LADY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	MOTEL
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-7	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE IN-LAWS
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	SNAKE LADY
CINEMA-15	NAKED WEAPON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA 3	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA 4	BULLETPROOF MONK
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

SONG OF MULAN
A TALE OF A YOUNG GIRL'S TRIUMPH OVER GREAT ODDS

Nancy Castiglione as Mulan • Greg Turvey as Captain Shang • Directed by Freddie Santos

ALABANG	MAKATI	CEBU
Aug. 1 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 8 - 1pm, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 15 - 11am, 4pm, 7pm
Aug. 2 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 9 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 16 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Aug. 3 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 10 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 17 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm

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7-24 August, 2003 Greenbelt Cinemas, Ayala Center

		Greenbelt 3, Cinema 1	Greenbelt 1, Cinema 1	Greenbelt 1, Cinema 2
Aug. 8 - Friday	11:30 am	Drifting Clouds [Finland]	Bellissima [Poland]	The Buttoners [Czech Republic]
	2:00 pm	Madame Broutte [Senegal]	Double Portrait [Poland]	Oil Children [Iran]
	4:30 pm	The Debut [USA]	Mr. and Mrs. Iyer [India]	The Tracker [Australia]
	7:00 pm	Smimming Pool [France]	Divine Intervention [Palestine]	Japon [Mexico]
	9:30 pm	Dogville [Denmark]	Edi [Poland]	Erotic Tales [Germany]
Aug. 9 - Saturday	11:30 am	Mr. & Mrs. Iyer [India]	The Buttoners [Czech Republic]	Oil Children [Iran]
	2:00 pm	The Tracker [Australia]	Divine Intervention [Palestine]	Uzak (Distant) [Turkey]
	4:30 pm	Japon [Mexico]	Swimming Pool [France]	Madame Broutte [Senegal]
	7:00 pm	Erotic Tales [Germany]	Dogville [Denmark]	Man Without a Past [Finland]
	9:30 pm	City of God [Brazil]	Dogville [Denmark]	Waiting for Happiness [Mauritania]
Aug. 10 - Sunday	11:30 am	Madame Brouette [Senegal]	Bellissima [Poland]	Charlie: Life & Art of Charles Chaplin [USA]
	2:00 pm	Edi [Poland]	The Barbeque People [Israel]	Double Portrait [Poland]
	4:30 pm	Belleville Rendezvous [Belgium]	Days of Being Wild [HK]	Edi [Poland]
	7:00 pm	Divine Intervention [Palesine]	Chungking Express [Hong Kong]	Missing Gun [China]
	9:30 pm	24 Hour Party People [UK]	Drifting Clouds [Finland]	Happy Together [HK]
Aug. 11 - Monday	11:30 am	Double Portrait [Poland]	Drifting Clouds [Finland]	Oil Children [Iran]
	2:00 pm	Charlie: Life & Art of Charles Chaplin [USA]	Waiting for Happiness [Mauritania]	Mr. & Mrs. Iyer [India]
	4:30 pm	Japon [Mexico]	Uzak (Distant) [Turkey]	Edi [Poland]
	7:00 pm	Lan Yu [Hong Kong]	The Crime of Father Amaro [Mexico]	Man Without a Past [Finland]
	9:30 pm	Swimming Pool [France]	Bandit Queen [India]	Bob Dylan: Don't Look Back [USA]
Aug. 12 - Tuesday	11:30 am	Man Without a Past [Finland]	The Barbeque People [Israel]	Mr. & Mrs. Iyer [India]
	2:00 pm	Missing Gun [China]	Uzak (Distant) [Turkey]	The Tracker [Australia]
	4:30 pm	City of God [Brazil]	Divine Intervention [Palestine]	Oil Children [Iran]
	7:00 pm	Whale Rider [New Zealand]	Japon [Mexico]	Belleville Rendezvous [Belgium]
	9:30 pm	Infernal Affairs [Hong Kong]	Bob Dylan: Don't Look Back [USA]	24 Hour Party People [UK]

Date	Events	Time	Venue
August 7	Opening Night The Debut *(by invitation only)* City of God *(Tickets Available at Ayala Cinemas)*	9:00pm 11:00pm	Greenbelt OnStage Greenbelt 3, Cinema 2
August 8	Global Visions for Philippine Cinema: A Film Symposium	1:30pm – 4pm	Glorietta 4, Cinema 7
August 21	Awards Night	8:00pm	OnStage
August 22	1st day Asia – Europe Scriptlab		Asian Institute of Management
August 22	"Music Night" (Screening of *Year of the Devil* (Rok Dabla) by Petr Zelenka to be followed by a live musical performance)	6:00pm	Premiere THX
August 23	2nd day Asia – Europe Scriptlab		Asian Institute of Management
August 24	3rd day Asia – Europe Scriptlab		Asian Institute of Management

Note: Additional screenings to be announced.

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CINEMA 1	BAD BOYS 2 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 R13
CINEMA 2	THE IN-LAWS 11:45, 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:50 PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

AUG 8,9,15,16,22,23,29,30, 2003	GARY V. HITS MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
AUG 19, 2003	MAYA LEE IN CONCERT	8:30PM

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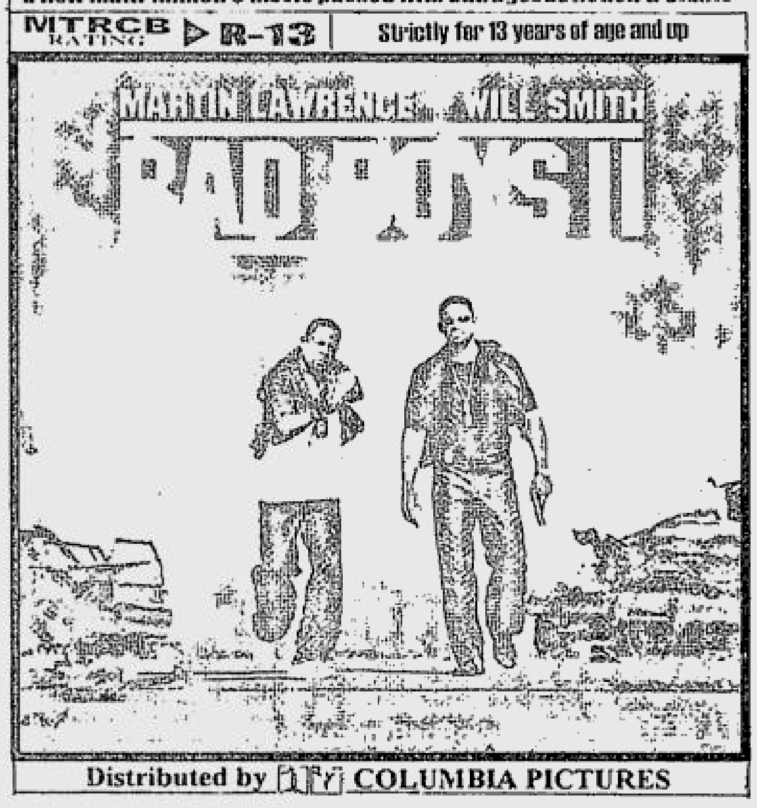

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MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

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MY LITTLE EYE
STUDIO CANAL
momentum

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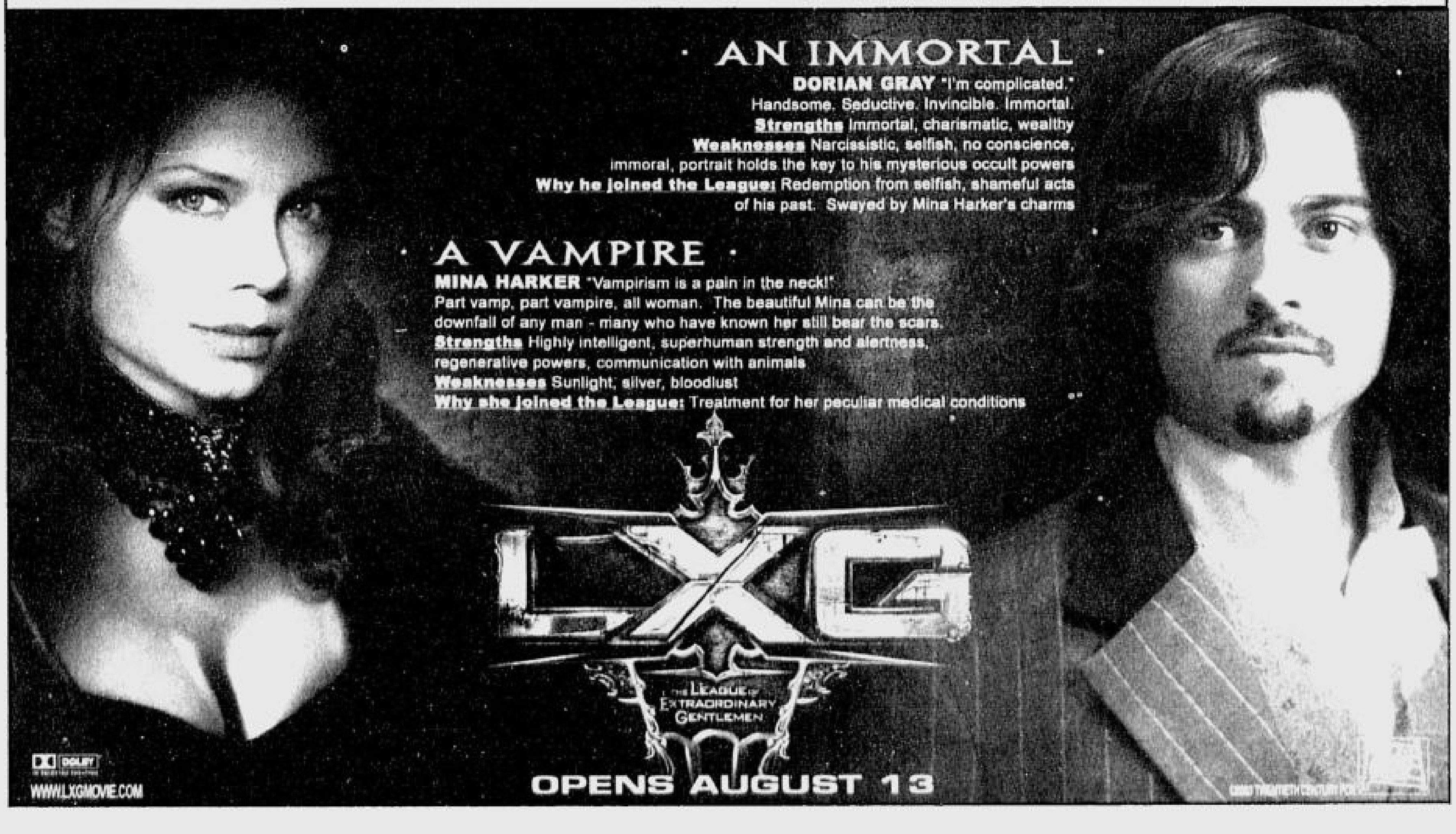

AN IMMORTAL
DORIAN GRAY "I'm complicated."
Handsome. Seductive. Invincible. Immortal.
Strengths Immortal, charismatic, wealthy
Weaknesses Narcissistic, selfish, no conscience, immoral, portrait holds the key to his mysterious occult powers
Why he joined the League: Redemption from selfish, shameful acts of his past. Swayed by Mina Harker's charms

A VAMPIRE
MINA HARKER "Vampirism is a pain in the neck!"
Part vamp, part vampire, all woman. The beautiful Mina can be the downfall of any man - many who have known her still bear the scars.
Strengths Highly intelligent, superhuman strength and alertness, regenerative powers, communication with animals
Weaknesses Sunlight, silver, bloodlust
Why she joined the League: Treatment for her peculiar medical conditions

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OPENS AUGUST 13

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

Sterling example

ON AN ABS-CBN institutional spot, newscaster **Frankie Evangelista** reveals that he's worked with the network for 50 years. That's a great achievement for which Frankie should be roundly congratulated.

Even better, he's scrupulously done superior work during all those years, and as any TV person will tell you, that's exceedingly rare on the television scene these days.

Truth to tell, the local TV news scene has been overrun by some shallow show biz types, so Frankie and his committed ilk are now more the exception than the rule. As such, Frankie should be held up as an icon and sterling example for young media people to emulate. Lord knows, they need all of the good role models they can get, because even young broadcast news people sometimes turn in compromised work these days. So young, and already so tainted …

ABS-CBN should also be congratulated for continuing to keep Frankie on board despite his age. Viewers worship at the altar of youth and matinee-idol looks these days, so we can imagine that some people may want Frankie to retire.

But he's still reporting the news, and that's great, because it teaches young viewers that seniority, experience, wisdom and principles still count for something these days.

For our part, we're happy to recall that, many years ago, we evaluated the local news scene on TV, and wrote that, in our view, the best male newscaster was Frankie Evangelista.

Decades later, we are pleased to say that we have no reason to change our mind.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Black Hawk Down'

"Black Hawk Down" will be screened on HBO at 9 p.m. on Aug. 9. **Ridley Scott**'s film focuses on the ill-fated 1993 US peace keeping mission in Somalia, in which US Army Rangers and the elite Delta Force staged a raid to capture two henchmen of warlord **Mohamed Farrah Aidid**.

The mission was supposed to take only an hour but lasted till the next morning, resulting in the death of 18 Americans.

Unlike most "patriotic" war movies, nothing in "Black Hawk Down" is whitewashed. The audience sees it as it really happened, and knows who's to be blamed.

Scott doesn't create portraits of heroes, but gets the audience right into the battle, for viewers to see what the soldiers were up against. Viewers don't have to be told the soldiers were heroes: They see it for themselves. **Josh Hartnett, Ewan McGregor** and **William Fitchner** star.

Feedback

From **Charles Gonzalvez** of Makati City: "Your series of articles on television's impact on children has made me more aware of the effect of TV shows on my own children.

"Watching some programs with them, I am deeply disturbed by the content of television shows, even during daytime, when many minors are watching TV.

"I call on people working in TV networks to be much more careful in what they put on the small screen, because many impressionable minors are watching. This goes further and deeper than just ratings or profits. The welfare and future of an entire generation are at stake.

"Parents should also be more vigilant in supervising the youth's viewing fare. If we leave our children to watch TV alone, they won't stand a chance against the stuff that's being thrown at them …"

Quality reports

"Focus Asia's" **Joe Kainz** was in town recently, and shared his experiences in producing quality reports with local broadcast journalists. Kainz's report, "Jirga Justice," won the grand prize in the English TV category of the 2003 Human Rights Press Awards.

"Jirga Justice" examined the increasing concern that the jirga and similar village court systems, known as "Panchayat," have been abusing their power and ordering horrifying punishments, like a Pakistani woman's being gang-raped as settlement of a dispute involving her family.

EVANGELISTA worthy of emulation

Asked about stories he'd want to do in the Philippines, Kainz said he's interested in environmental topics like the *dugong* (seacow). He's also thinking of doing an investigative piece "on why the Philippines has not yet moved forward and has been overtaken by Korea and Thailand."

"Focus Asia" is telecast on Star World every Sunday at 8 p.m.

Tex Ordoñez: A star is born

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

JUST asking:

Could it be true that acoustic sensation **Nyoy Volante** and **Nina** are now playing beautiful music together even off-stage? If so, may their budding romance never hit a sour note. Hopefully their terrific harmony during their performances will rub off on their love affair.

***

A staff member of a dramatic actress relayed to me that the actress is many months overdue on the rental on her store, and that the power company had to cut the electricity in the shop recently. Could the actress be so busy that paying her bills slipped her mind, or is she in dire financial straits?

***

I bumped into controversial love birds **Ciara Sotto** and **John Lloyd Cruz**. It seems like everything is back to normal between them after that much ballyhooed rumor about Ciara's suicide attempt reportedly because John Lloyd was being paired off with Bea Alonzo. Ciara gamely granted my staff an interview for my show, "Celebrity DAT com," but John Lloyd declined. I wonder why. He's the man, and he should be the one to speak up. Or did he suddenly turn camera shy?

***

When, oh, when will **Regine Tolentino** and **Lander Vera Perez** finally reconcile? Regine told me that in time they would rebuild their family again. Would the estranged couple go by her or his timetable? Sometimes, one party is emotionally ready, willing but unable to rekindle ties. Regine's mom told me she's getting impatient. She wants Regine and Lander together again for the sake of her two granddaughters. But I guess the couple will try again mainly because they want to be together and not because they're afraid to be alone.

> Even the National Artist for Dance was bowled over by her star turn

ORDONEZ gave a brilliant performance

Ordoñez a revelation

Everyone's talking about how brilliant **Tex Ordoñez** is as the snake-woman Valentina in the ongoing production of "Darna" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Her performance is both heart-tugging and wacky, causing one to feel for her despite the fact that she's supposed to be the mega-*contravida* of the kick-ass, fly-high local super woman.

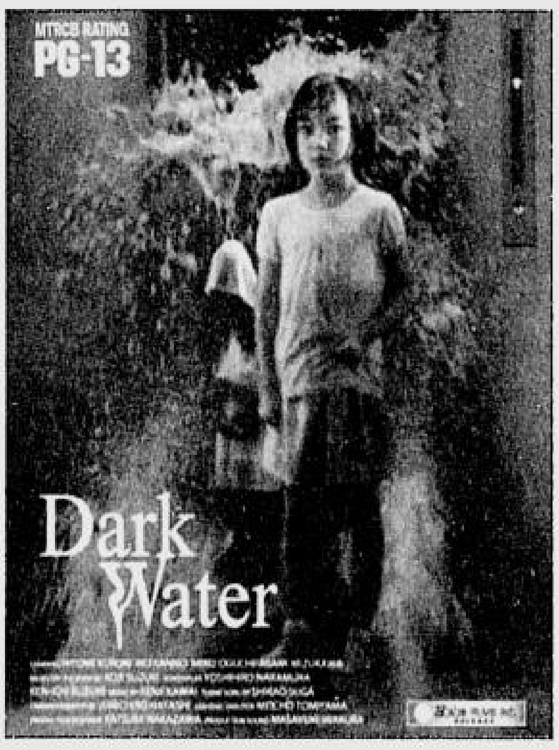
Tex is very new in show business but she has already achieved quite a lot. Even as a total unknown, she wowed everyone who caught INQUIRER's very own **Marge Enriquez**'s annual dance event last year at Onstage in Greenbelt. For that one-spot performance, Tex sang a "Salidumay"-inspired song without lyrics: She just hummed and chanted the difficult piece. Even the highly esteemed National Artist for Dance **Leonor Orosa** was bowled over by Tex's bravura performance and wrote glowingly of her.

Tex later swept musical theater patrons once again as one of the three leads in "Dreamgirls." She was such a revelation as the mistress of **Jett Pangan** in that musical, and the audience gave her sustained ovations. I later learned that Tex bagged that coveted role of **Lorell Robinson** through a rigid audition process while the two other lead roles were "offered" to more popular singers, **Bituin Escalante** and **Anna Fegi**, by Atlantis Productions.

Word got around about this singer called Tex so that even **Mother Lily** made her do a duet with no less than **Gary Valenciano** to sing the theme song of **Joel Lamangan**'s movie "Mano Po."

Now comes "Darna," the highly-awaited musical event of the year which is a fusion of modern ballet and musical theater. Choreographed by **Denisa Reyes** with

TEX ORDONEZ/ A25



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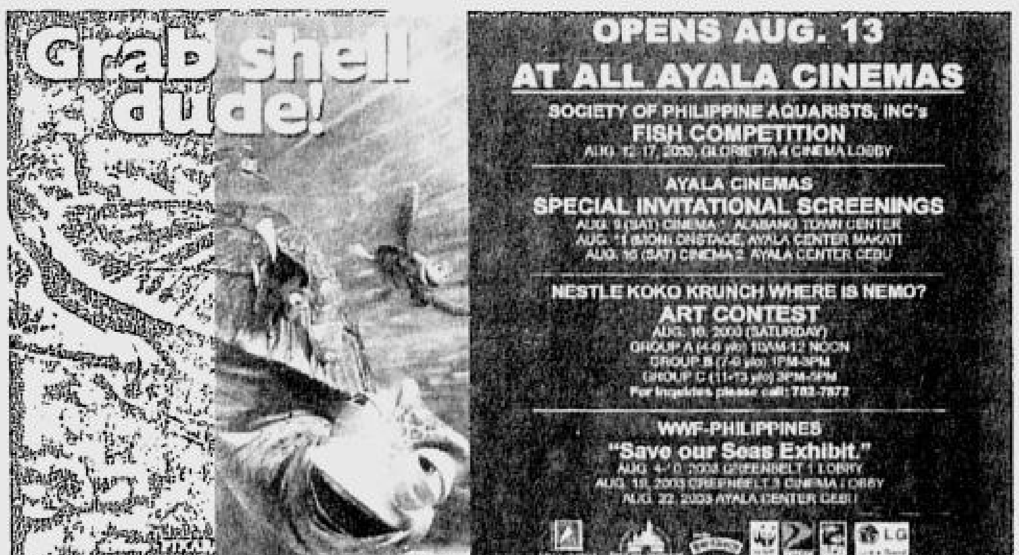

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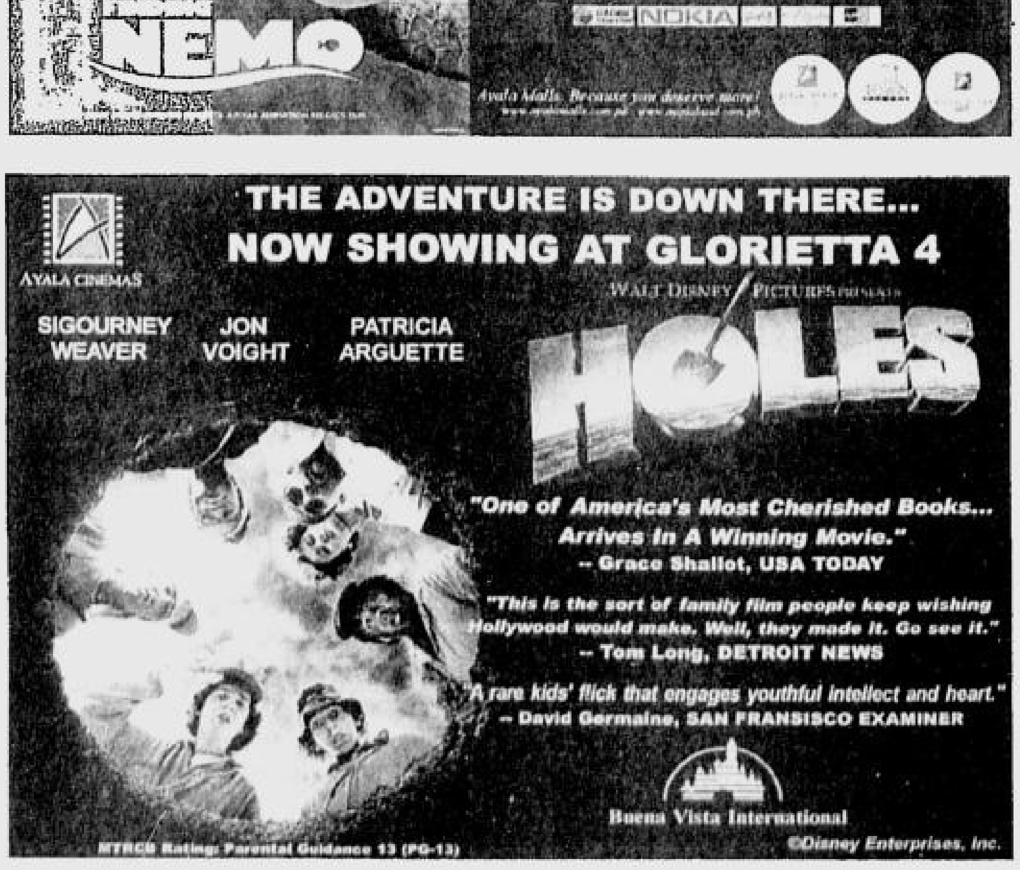

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MY LITTLE EYE R18 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	TOMB RAIDER 2 PG13 11:50,2:20,4:50, 7:20,9:50	THE IN-LAWS PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10

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Economy seen on track despite mutiny

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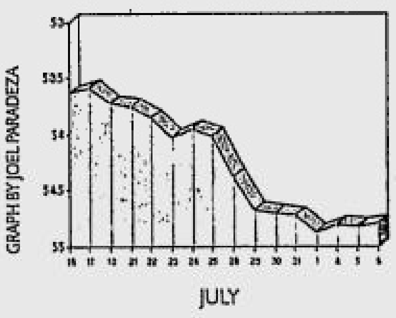

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.79 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 6, 2003

¥ 119.94 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 6, 2003

GOLD: **$352.50-353.00**

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug.6, 2003

By Clarissa S. Batino

WHILE the July 27 coup attempt weakened the peso, battered the stock market and raised the cost of foreign and local borrowings, it did not affect the country's growth targets for this year, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho assured the members of the Cabinet on Tuesday.

The finance chief was asked to present before the other members of the Cabinet the economic implications of the failed mutiny.

The peso had weakened past the 54-to-$1 level, the stock market index slumped, spreads on Philippine dollar bonds widened and the local market had been pushing treasury bill rates substantially higher in the aftermath of the coup attempt.

"I told them that what we really lost is momentum because before the coup (attempt), we had very good things going for us. The deficit was under control, domestic interest rates were down, inflation was benign, and growth appeared to be improving," Camacho explained.

He pointed out that business and confidence indicators were quite high before a band of rebel soldiers took over the Oakwood towers on Ayala Ave. nearly two weeks ago. For instance, portfolio inflow in July was a net $83.8 million, the highest monthly level in recent years.

The finance chief expressed confidence that economic growth as measured by the gross domestic product would "be fairly strong" in the second half as indicated by increased orders from exporters and the continued strength of other sectors.

Camacho said the perceived impact on foreign direct investments should not widely affect the economy given that such funds have not been substantial in recent years.

"I think GDP growth in the second semester would be substantial and enough to make us

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Stalk of the town

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMEBODY big in this cute administration of Gloriaetta will have to go. This is the talk of the business town. I'm afraid it may very well be only wistful thinking.

For Gloriaetta to clean up her Cabinet, according to corporate think tanks, may be a good start to rebuild confidence, particularly after that dejecting military uprising.

But the billion-peso question is, who will go. Precisely, everybody is hanging on. Everybody is hoping for an overtime play until 2010.

Nobody is going to step down voluntarily. Gloriaetta will have to get rid of some guys who are notorious for "deals." She may not be ready to chop some heads.

Whoever she fires out, for one, may join another candidate. As it is, Cabinet members of this cute administration have taken different sides for 2004 already.

* * *

AT the moment, more than 10 days after the "successful resolution" of the coup, and all that in only 19 hours, heroes are sprouting in media like a bad case of acne attack.

It is only to be expected. Although the coup failed, it still embarrassed this cute administration. To cover up their failure, they must project in media all sorts of heroism.

As Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes tells it to media, for instance, he will not resign. He says he just saved this cute administration.

And everybody thought that, based on Gloriaetta's statements in media, the PMA classmates of the young rebel officers, actually, were the saviors.

Now those aimless media statements are only bound to sow more confusion among the public. Unless of course we don't believe their statements anymore!

* * *

ALRIGHT, at this stage, it is all about punishment. This cute administration is following the advice of business, which said that the mutineers must not get away with it this time.

But then again, perhaps to soothe the frail nerves of business, this cute administration already declares in media that everything is under control.

Yet, while the Palace says that it is all over, media reported that the Armed Forces just added hundreds of troops at its headquarters and at the Palace.

And so people go, "I thought it's all over?" Because of all the aimless talk of all the heroes, therefore, media are having a field day, especially the foreign media.

Look, we continue to appear on all the television business shows abroad. They all show heavily armed soldiers. I don't think that's good for us.

* * *

AS everybody is saying, the certainty of punishment is the only way to prevent similar weekend mall excursions of some men in uniform in the future.

The problem is, this cute administration already knew about the coup attempt, but still they could not prevent it. Nobody stalked anybody who should not even be in town.

So how can this cute administration now assure business that it can build a case against the backers and planners of the coup, if only to assure punishment to them?

Interior Secretary Jose Lina, for instance, accused Sen. Gregoria Honasan of masterminding the coup, saying he already had the hard evidence.

That was during the coup itself. An official as high in the government bureaucracy as Lina was already talking about hard evidence against a senator.

So far, however, Lina's "hard evidence" remains to be that one single affidavit of a Palace telephone guy, saying that Honasan took part in one ritual of the rebel group.

* * *

OUR problem is, we are getting too much talk and much less action. Let's fire somebody please, shall we?

In business, you see, aside from punishment to the rebel soldiers, they worry about what actually brought about the coup.

Everybody knows that people are sick and tired of graft and corruption. Do we see some cleaning up in this cute administration?

Word goes around about a certain Joey "V." No, Bruno, it is not the name of a rap artist. Joey "V" is also not the same as the famous Jose Velarde.

From what I hear, Joey "V" is the fictitious name in a multibillion-peso account, which is said to be maintained in a subsidiary of one of the biggest banks in the country.

* * *

THAT rumored account, already running by the billions, is just one of the things which people in business hear about people either "in" or "close" to this cute administration.

Fortunately for Joey "V," whoever he, she, it, or they may be, the group which controls the depository bank, is said to be afraid of this cute administration.

In business, somebody big in the government is said to employ some business henchmen. You need something approved by the government, you go to them.

Aside from the billions in the Joey "V" account, business often hears about hundreds of millions which change hands for some government approvals.

One alias stands out in the business community because of quite a number of famous multibillion-peso deals. It sounds something like "End Poseur."

* * *

STILL hanging is the proposal for another mass rail transit system, the so-called MRT-7, which will run between Fairview and certain areas which can link it with other rail systems.

From what I gathered, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza already approved the project. It is now up to the Neda.

Worth some $1.4 billion, the project already has the backing of foreign financiers, including Alstom Transportation of France and Alstom Signalling of the United States.

Some local groups are also investing in the project. They include the Yuchengo family and a company of Shoemart's Henry Sy.

If we can only get it going—a $1.4-billion project at that—maybe it will boost confidence in business. It can even gloss over all this stalking around town.

* *

BUT what the Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, the Neda head, worries about is some political backlash of an approval.

Some senators are said to be backing a group which is said to be against the project. A Neda approval is bound to invite a congressional inquiry in aid of...

Methinks it is a dramatic project, even symbolic in a way, because it can tell the world that, really, it is all over.

Later, Neda can then put it under Swiss challenge from other interested groups. Within three months, the project can then break ground by December.

Even just a Neda approval will become a big deal in media. I think it is one way to take our minds off this coup and all these heroes.

3RD STRAIGHT MONTH

ABS-CBN ad revenues breach P1B

By Abigail L. Ho

BROADCASTING giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. posted P1 billion in television advertising revenues for the third straight month in July driven by growth in consumer spending.

ABS-CBN chair and chief executive Eugenio Lopez III said in an interview Tuesday that companies, particularly those manufacturing consumer goods, spent more on advertising as consumer spending increased.

He noted that the company's good performance in July was quite unusual because July and August were usually weak months in the television business.

"Our August is also very strong. This is a very unusual year. I think remittances from (overseas Filipino workers) are fueling consumer spending," he told the INQUIRER.

Despite losing P30 million in advertising revenues during the July 27 coup attempt due to the non-airing of regular programs, Lopez said the company was still able to post P1 billion in revenues in July because of strong ad spending the rest of the month.

Barring another coup attempt during the rest of the year, he said ABS-CBN was likely to exceed its 6-percent growth target for 2003.

To date, the company has already posted a 25-percent growth over last year's figure.

In June, ABS-CBN generated P1.1 billion in local radio and television advertising sales, following its P1-billion gross airtime revenues in May.

As of end-June, the company has already chalked up P5.1 billion in radio and television revenues.

With a debt load of about P6 billion, Lopez said ABS-CBN could not do any more new borrowings in the near term.

"ABS-CBN can't borrow so we fund all our requirements and pay all our debts from our cash flow. We're doing okay," he said.

However, he said the company was considering refinancing options, including the issue of peso bonds by next year.

"I just don't know if the market is open for us. But with our strong growth and revenues, I think the market will be receptive to an offering from us," he said.

Sky, Home Cable sign deal on merger, await creditors' nod

By Abigail L. Ho

PARTIES involved in the merger of cable firms SkyCable Central CATV Inc. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. last week signed a memorandum of agreement on their full consolidation.

SkyCable chair Eugenio Lopez III said in an interview that he and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan signed the MOA and submitted this to the firms' creditor-banks for approval.

"We're waiting for them (the banks) to agree to this. Basically it's already a go," he told the INQUIRER.

Lopez flagship firm Benpres Holdings Corp. owns SkyCable, while MediaQuest Holdings Corp. of the PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund owns Home Cable.

Both firms are restructuring more than P2.5 billion in debts. Equitable-PCIBank, BPI and DBP have the biggest exposures in the cable firms.

Lopez said a restructuring agreement should be signed in the coming weeks, not extending beyond 2003.

He added that a new investor would be coming into the picture once the creditor-banks have approved the firms' merger.

However, he declined to disclose its identity and whether this was an industry player or an institutional investor.

SkyCable and Home Cable have consolidated some of their functions by virtue of a master consolidation agreement signed by PLDT and the Lopez group in 2001.

The consolidated firm is now known as Beyond Cable Holdings Inc.

However, the two firms still kept separate books and some of their functions had not been totally integrated.

US firm keen on Batangas project

A TEXAS-BASED construction firm will tie up with publicly listed Wise Holdings Inc. for the development of the Fernando air base in Batangas into a joint military and commercial use facility.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Wise Holdings confirmed that Trinity Works LLC based in Fort Worth, Texas, had agreed to help develop the Lipa,. Batangas, airport and surrounding property.

In a copy of a letter of interest to Wise Holdings president Augustus Paiso, Trinity Works said it was keen to develop the air base into a joint military and commercial use facility serving military, general aviation, domestic passenger, regional cargo and charter aircraft using a runway capable of accommodating large, long-haul jets.

Trinity Works said it was considering consolidation and development of approximately 1,000 to 2000 hectares located immediately to the north of the airport into an integrated mixed-use special economic zone with industrial, commercial, residential, recreational-leisure and other institutional uses.

Wise Holdings had been designated by the Regional Development Council IV to form a strategic alliance or consortium for the development of the airport and adjacent property.

Trinity Works will take the lead in arranging the strategic alliance or consortium including project management and financing while Wise Holdings would work on obtaining government approvals, including sovereign guarantees and perform land acquisition and civil works.

The group aims to break ground for the first component of the project by the start of 2004 with completion or opening of the redeveloped airport estimated after 24 months, parallel to consolidation and development of the adjacent property. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Stocks end lower on security worries

STOCKS fell more than one percent yesterday as the deadly bombing in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on Tuesday heightened concerns about security in the region.

Investors are also jittery after a failed mutiny by more than 300 elite soldiers in the Makati business district on July 27. The government is now calling the uprising an abortive coup but insists it has the situation under control.

The main index closed 13.63 points or 1.12 percent lower at 1,204.32 points. Turnover dropped 14.3 percent from Tuesday's level to P347.6 million.

In the broader market, losers beat gainers 31 to 15, with 35 stocks unchanged.

"Trading is likely to remain volatile as investors, particularly foreign funds, weigh investment options following the bombing incident in Jakarta," said BPI Securities investment analyst Spencer Yap.

"The market may re-test the 1,200 support level, possibly over the next few trading days."

On the first-half earnings front, food and beer giant San Miguel Corp. will report today and conglomerate Ayala Corp. tomorrow. *Reuters*

INTEREST RATES

August 6, 2003-
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 6-Aug-03	MART1 5-Aug-03
1 Month	6.1917	6.2596
3 Months	6.0233	6.2333
6 Months	7.0117	7.2167
1 Year	8.1125	8.5183
2 Years	9.535	9.935
3 Years	10.1417	10.75
4 Years	10.45	11.1464
5 Years	10.7767	11.335
7 Years	11.3571	11.8227
10 Years	11.9067	12.0567
20 Years	12.1067	12.39
25 Years	12.435	12.69

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 6, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	17.75	17.75	10,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45.5	45	45.5	268,300
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Citystate Savings Bank	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	148,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	105,500
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	32,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	39,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	23	23	156,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1605	1600	1605	950
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.34	1.28	1.34	105,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1140	1140	1135	1140	3,800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	10,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.63	1,640,000
Globe Telecom Inc	640	640	630	630	36,380
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	3,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.046	6,600,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	61,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	3,320,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	510	510	497.5	500	87,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	300,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	26,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	341,700
Manila Electric Co. "B"	16.75	17	16.25	17	1,349,200
Petron Corp	1.96	1.98	1.94	1.94	1,872,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp	0.15	0.185	0.15	0.185	430,000
William. Gothong & Aboitiz	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	452,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	7,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	1,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	14,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	52	52	51.5	52	19,500
San Miguel Corp. "B"	61.5	62	61.5	61.5	44,300
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	6	5,082,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.35	4.4	4,386,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	5,973,000
ATN Holdings, Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.8	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.57	0.57	17,000,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	760,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.3	7,130,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	643,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.115	860,000
Ionics Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.38	1.4	220,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	5,628,000
Metro Pacific Corp	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,790,000
Music Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	1,120,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.245	0.205	0.23	4,150,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.16	580,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	1	1	1	1	91,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	1	1	1	1	100,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	800,000
SPI Technologies Inc	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	654,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Philippine Racing Club	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	7,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	59,700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	3,543,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	33,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.21	0.185	0.21	14,270,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	2,830,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	9,860,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.9	823,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	5.9	6	5.8	5.8	11,423,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	1,090,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	250,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	600,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	43,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp	0.032	0.034	0.032	0.034	1,700,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000

DISCLOSURES

APC Group Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Aug. 26 to Oct. 1.

* * *

RESIGNED from **Global Equities Inc.** and **Adamson Adamson Inc.** were Nora Bitong as president, Edmundo Isidro as vice chair and Reynaldo Bitong as treasurer. Arsenio Cabrera Jr. resigned as director of GEI while Florentino Herrera III resigned as director of AAI. Roberto Atendido was appointed director, president and CEO of GEI and AAI.

* * *

GINEBRA San Miguel Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.375 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 21 and will be payable on Sept. 15.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philippine Estates Corp.** were Antonio Henson, Dee Hua Gatchalian, Elvira Ting, Kenneth Gatchalian, Lisandro Abadia, Yolanda dela Cruz, Arthur Lopez, Renato Magadia, Angel Umali, Arthur Ponsaran and Joaquin Obieta.

* * *

FIRST Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 16, 8 a.m. with record date on Aug. 19.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Aug. 27 to Sept. 25.

* * *

FORUM Pacific Inc. denied having any information that can explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.19 to P0.28 per share.

* * *

JAIME Camacho, vice president of **Manila Electric Co.** will serve as chief information officer of the company starting Aug. 16.

* * *

AUDIT committee members of **Vitarich Corp.** are Deogracias Vistan, Lorenzo Sarmiento Jr., Ma. Victoria Sarmiento and Benjamin Sarmiento Jr. Nomination and compensation committee members are Lydia Enrile, Manuel Lim, Ma. Luz Roxas-Lopez, Ma. Socorro Gatmaitan, Jose Sarmiento, Benjamin Sarmiento and Marifel David. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 6, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.877347	1.000000	54.800000
Japan	Yen	0.007324	0.008348	0.457500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.418319	1.616600	88.589700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112493	0.128220	7.026500
Switzerland	Franc	0.651721	0.742832	40.707200
Canada	Dollar	0.625872	0.713369	39.092600
Singapore	Dollar	0.497644	0.567215	31.083400
Australia	Dollar	0.566506	0.645703	35.384500
Bahrain	Dinar'	2.327304	2.652661	145.365800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.233953	0.266660	14.613000
Brunei	Dollar	0.496237	0.565611	30.995500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000116	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.020875	0.023793	1.303900
UAE	Dirham	0.238877	0.272272	14.920500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.139800	62.461000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.230912	0.263193	14.423000
Mexico	New Peso	0.081576	0.092980	5.095300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509138	0.580316	31.801300
Korea	Won	0.000739	0.000842	0.046100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025534	0.029104	1.594900

Economy . . .

From page B1

achieve the target (for 2003)," said Camacho.

Some economists, however, said there would be a 10 percent drop in foreign direct investments as a result of the failed military uprising.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri earlier said he expected the second half GDP to hit at least 4.5 percent to meet the full-year growth of at least 4.2 percent.

Neri said he was confident that an improving global economy should benefit Philippine exports and the manufacturing sector by the second half, enough to fuel a GDP growth of at least 4.5 percent.

The director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority said the first-half performance was lackluster given the slowdown in the economies of major trading partners in the second quarter that affected the country's export receipts.

The Neda had earlier forecast a 3.7-4.4 percent growth in GDP during the second quarter.

Gov't debt stock seen hitting ₱3.26T next year

THE GOVERNMENT'S debt is expected to grow 6.5 percent to P3.26 trillion by the end of 2004 from the estimated P3.06 trillion by the end of this year due to continued borrowings to finance a substantial increase in debt payments next year.

The country will have to settle next year P542.2 billion in debt, up P116.5 billion from P425.7 billion this year, official data showed.

Government officials stressed that 85 percent of the country's obligations were scheduled to mature in more than five years and only 15 percent was falling due in a year's time.

A government official said that despite the significant increase in debt servicing, the projected rate of increase in the debt stock was lower compared with 9 percent in 2003 and 28 percent in 2002.

The estimated debt stock in 2004 is equivalent to 69 percent of GDP, lower than this year's 71.2 percent. The GDP is expected to reach P4.695 trillion in 2004.

In 2001, the debt stock was equivalent to 65.5 percent of GDP.

As of May this year, the government's outstanding debt stood at P2.959 trillion.

Interest payments of P271.5 billion in 2004 will be P40.8 billion or 17.7 percent more from the P230.7 billion this year while principal payments of P270.7 billion will be 38.8 percent higher than P195 billion in 2003.

Debt management, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, has always been a primary concern of the Macapagal administration, which hopes to bring down the deficit to zero during its term.

Camacho earlier pointed out that reform measures to correct the erosion in revenues must be pursued to accelerate fiscal balance.

For every law passed that would require the government to shell out money, Congress must pass an equivalent revenue measure. This arrangement is the subject of a draft legislation proposed by the budget department.

The reported debt stock covers only the national government's local and foreign borrowings. Including those of state corporations and financial institutions, the consolidated debt stock stood at almost P5 trillion in September 2002.

Forex reserves up 1.8%

THE COUNTRY'S foreign exchange reserves rose to $16.14 billion by the end of July, up 1.8 percent from $15.85 billion in the previous month, given the remaining proceeds of the $750-million global bond issue last month.

As the external reserves improved, the peso strengthened to 54.79 from 54.815 Tuesday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the inflow from the government's bond float last month was partly offset by debt payments of the central bank and the national government.

"The end-July level of GIR (gross international reserves) was adequate to cover 4.5 months worth of imports of goods and services. This is also equivalent to 2.6 times of the country's short-term debt based on the original maturity or 1.3 times based on residual maturity," said Buenaventura in a statement.

The BSP chief said the GIR should stay within $14 billion to $15 billion this year even after paying maturing debts.

With the increase in the end-July GIR, the country's net international reserves, an indicator monitored by the International Monetary Fund, also improved to $12.82 billion from $12.34 billion in June.

A strong GIR helps stabilize the peso as it tells the market that the central bank has sufficient dollars to stave off demand in the spot market during crunch time.

A healthy level of foreign exchange also assures the country's trading partners that the government can pay debts and imports.

The GIR is the BSP's total holdings of US dollars and other currencies, gold and special drawing rights (the currency used by the International Monetary Fund). *Clarissa S. Batino*

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Industry seeks probe of 'ghost' plywood importers

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT has been urged to investigate two 'ghost importers' that brought into the country cheap plywood from China, as their continued operation threatened the viability of the local wood industry.

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) said it was able to detect two shipments of China-made plywood that entered the country through the Port of Manila in June. Documents obtained by the industry indicated that the two shipments consisted of about 40,000 pieces of 2-mm thick, 4x8 ft plywood.

The plywood from China was valued at only P53 each, significantly lower than the prices of locally made plywood which range from P230 to P240 per piece. Quoting Customs records, PWPA executive director Leonardo Angeles said in an interview that the two shipments of plywood were imported by certain Sintahar Enterprises Inc. and Worldtrix Forge Marketing. The documents obtained by the group showed that Sintahar was holding office at 7th Ave., Caloocan City, while Worldtrix was located in Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela.

"When we went to Sintahar's given address, we found out that the place was a garment factory and nobody knew about Sintahar. In the same way, Worldtrix's address turned out to be a non-operational plywood manufacturing office," the PWPA official said.

The industry also found out that Sintahar was not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. "We will also try to find out if Worldtrix is SEC-registered," he added.

Industry officials have asked the Bureau of Customs to look into the matter and determine how "non-existent" firms were able to bring in imports into the country's gateways. He said the crates of plywood were released from the port after duties were paid but without the necessary permits from the BPS and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The local wood industry said it could not compete with the "extremely low-priced" plywood from China since production, labor and power costs in the country were much higher than the average in the region. The source said local players feared that the proliferation of cheap plywood brought in by illegitimate importers could eventually cause huge revenue losses for their businesses.

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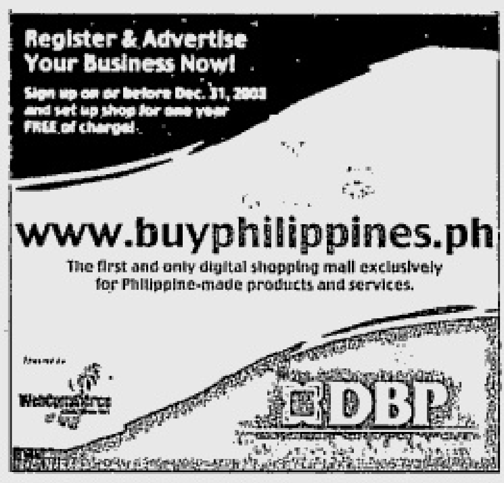
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LBP 1st half profit increases 31% to ₱1.09B

STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines yesterday reported that its profit in the first half of this year shot up 31 percent to P1.09 billion from P833 million in the same period last year.

In a press briefing yesterday, Landbank president Margarito Teves said that the bank's profit in the first half showed that the bank was on track to meet its P1.8 billion profit target for the whole of 2003.

Teves attributed the increase in earnings in the first semester to profitable investments and prudent spending.

The bank is seen to post even stronger growth momentum in the second half of this year based on expected improvement in macro-economic conditions and the impact of focused management.

Landbank yesterday reported that its gross revenue rose 5 percent to P9.3 billion in the first half from P8.836 billion last year on the back of investments and securities trading gains.

Expenses were controlled at P8.36 billion or almost the same as the P8.35 billion registered last year.

The bank said loans to priority sectors including farmers and fisherfolk, small and medium enterprises and local government units expanded to 51 percent of the total portfolio. It was within striking distance of the bank's end-2003 target to bring the share of loans to these sectors to 55 percent.

Regarding its balance sheet, Landbank disclosed that its deposit base expanded by 15 percent to P198.1 billion as of June 2003 from P172 billion in June 2002. Assets grew 12 percent to P268.5 billion from P239 billion while its capital inched up 6 percent to P21.4 billion from P20.2 billion.

In terms of asset quality, Landbank said the share of bad loans to its total loan portfolio improved to 15.5 percent as of end-June this year from 23.7 percent a year before.

Higher local stake in Malampaya sought

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is urging the Malampaya consortium to let PNOC Exploration Corp. take at least 15-percent stake in the planned oil rim development.

Energy Undersecretary Eduardo Mañalac said this was to enable the project avail itself of the incentive allowance, equivalent to 7.5 percent of gross proceeds, accorded to ventures that were at least 15 percent owned by local firms.

"This could be of great help to the consortium for the development of the Malampaya oil reserve," Mañalac said in a briefing. "The Filipino participation incentive allowance is one of the many attractions that we are offering upstream companies to spur petroleum exploration activities in the country."

The official added that under the new method of petroleum contracting, rewards for successful companies would be commensurate with the great risks they were taking.

The government used to contract petroleum prospects on a first-come, first-served basis. The new bidding system launched on Tuesday offered 46 exploration blocks in Southeast and East Palawan, Sulu Sea and the Reed Bank basins.

PNOC-EC holds a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya natural gas project while project operator Shell Philipines Exploration BV (Spex) and ChevronTexaco each holds 45 percent.

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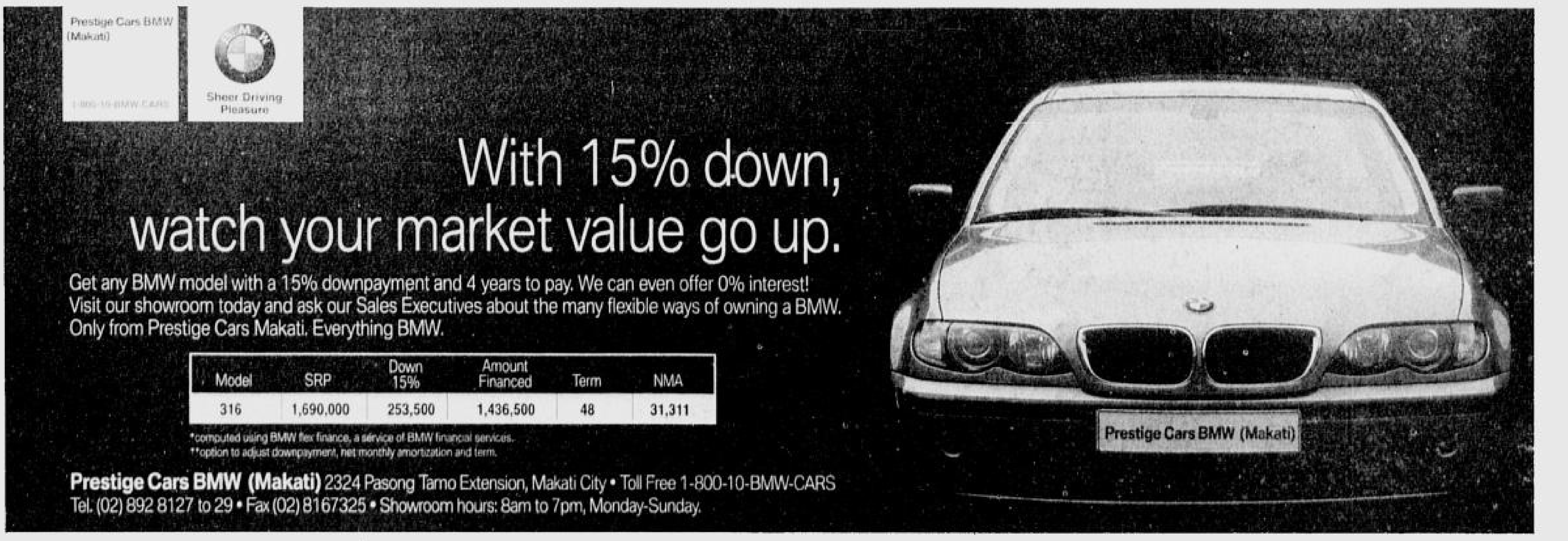
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GROWTHS IN U.S., EUROPE, JAPAN

Service spurt spawns hopes for global rebound

NEW YORK—The US and European service sectors strengthened in July, reports showed on Tuesday, suggesting a global economic recovery may, after several false starts, finally be taking hold.

Even Japan, still struggling to escape a three-year slump, saw improved business conditions during the second quarter, an official report showed.

The government also upgraded its assessment of the economy, albeit slightly, for the first time in five months.

Service firms on both sides of the Atlantic, ranging from banks and restaurants to hotels and retail stores, enjoyed an increase in business in recent months.

But the hints of economic improvement were tempered by fears that growth has proved insufficient to create new jobs, the ultimate gauge of the economy's health.

In the United States, the main engine of global economic growth, the vast services sector raced ahead in July at its fastest clip in at least six years. It expanded for a fourth straight month and at a pace well beyond market estimates.

As the world's largest economy seemed to edge closer to a full-throttle expansion, the Institute for Supply Management said on Tuesday its index of non-manufacturing activity surged in July to 65.1. It was the highest level since the survey was first conducted in July 1997, and well above June's 60.6.

A reading above 50 denotes growth in the services industry, which comprises about 80 percent of the US economy, while a figure below 50 indicates contraction. The results were a welcome surprise to Wall Street economists, who had forecast a drop in the measure, to 58.0.

"The underpinnings are there for the second-half recovery," said Stephen Stanley, senior market economist at RBS Greenwich Capital in Greenwich, Connecticut. "It feels like the economy is indeed bouncing back."

In Europe, a survey of more than 2,000 euro zone service firms showed a return to modest growth in July after six months of shrinking business. The main index for the sector jumped two points to 50.2, just over the neutral 50 level.

The positive news failed to rouse the US stock market, which retreated sharply as investors worried that rising interest rates could put the brakes on the nascent recovery.

Indeed, rates kept on rising on Tuesday as bond traders, who thrive on poor economic data and were thus discouraged by the rosy services numbers, sold off their holdings of US Treasuries.

Despite the upbeat data, concerns persisted that stubbornly high unemployment might eventually crimp consumer spending and slow recovery.

Such fears were magnified by a report showing the number of job cuts announced by US employers surged 43 percent in July after a two-month decline, suggesting a rebound in the job market may not happen until the end of the year,

The report said job hunters can expect an average of 20 weeks to find a job, and its pay may not match their last salary.

"Employers have all the cards," said John Challenger, chief executive officer of Challenger, Gray & Christmas, the job placement firm that compiled the report. "The screening of candidates is probably the toughest it has ever been."

It is nevertheless encouraging, said analysts, to see brighter survey results from manufacturers and service firms simultaneously. The data suggests businesses are finally overcoming the economic doubts and global political worries that have plagued them over the past couple of years.

In Britain, Tuesday's survey data showed service sector growth surged to its fastest pace in over a year in July, at 56.6 from 54.5 in June, quashing lingering expectations of a Bank of England interest rate cut this week. *Reuters*

US stocks fall on rate fears

NEW YORK — Investors shaken by a terrorist attack and a turnound in interest rates sent stocks sharply lower Tuesday, propelling the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 150 points in their worst day in 2 1/2 months.

Downbeat outlooks from Gillette and Costco added to the market's gloom, but analysts said much of the selling was due to a growing realization that interest rates are again climbing.

"Portfolio managers have decided to back away. They have lost their nerve," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at First Albany. "They are asking: `Will the rise in interest rates impact consumer spending and business spending?' It may very well."

Analysts also attributed Tuesday's losses to the powerful car bomb explosion outside the Marriott hotel in downtown Jakarta on Tuesday. The explosion, an apparent suicide attack, killed 13 people and wounded 149 — including two Americans.

The Dow closed down 149.72, or 1.6 percent, at 9,036.32. It was the Dow's biggest one-day point loss since May 19, when the blue chips shed 185.58.

The broader market also had steep losses. The Nasdaq composite index dropped 40.50, or 2.4 percent, to 1,673.56. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 17.35, or 1.8 percent, to 965.47. *AP*

Verizon, staff talks continue

PHILADELPHIA—Verizon Communications Inc., the largest US telephone company, and two unions representing technicians and telephone operators wrestled over job security and health care costs Tuesday in the third day of talks since a contract deadline passed.

The two unions—representing about 80,000 workers from Maine to Virginia—stayed on the job since the two sides agreed to negotiate past a Saturday deadline, avoiding a strike that would have triggered a second walkout in three years.

The negotiations—overseen by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, which assists in resolving labor disputes—resumed on Tuesday.

The Communications Workers of America union, which is negotiating in tandem with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, said it gave Verizon counterproposals on Monday night. Details of the new proposals were not immediately available.

The most contentious issues center on job security, transferring work to lower-cost regions and health care costs, both sides have said.

"We still have ground to cover," Candice Johnson, a spokesperson for the Communications Workers of America, said on Tuesday.

New York-based Verizon said it believes the two sides have made progress in the negotiations, but it did not elaborate. *Reuters*

A CHINESE shopper walks past a boutique in Beijing. Chinese economic experts have forecast an eight percent or slightly higher growth rate for the economy this year. The prediction followed an analysis of the factors that influence economic development in the short-term, medium-term and long-term periods, and the follow-up influences brought about by the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak. REUTERS

Thai finance chief happy with baht

THAI Finance Minister Suchart Jaovisidha said on Wednesday he was happy with the baht's current level around 42 per dollar and congratulated the central bank on its management of the currency.

In an interview with Reuters, Suchart said the baht's current value struck a balance between keeping Thai exports competitive and holding down the country's import bill.

Exporters who complained recently when the baht was strengthening were forgetting that Thailand's oil import bill alone comes to between $7.14 billion and $9.52 billion a year.

"This government has often said that we need to take the overall national interest into consideration, and we should not listen to only one particular group. So what we need is to find a proper balance (for the baht)," Suchart said on the sidelines of a meeting of Asian finance ministers

The baht on Wednesday traded in a tight range around 42 per dollar. It has been the second-strongest Asian currency against the dollar this year.

"It's still okay," Suchart said of the currency's value, noting that Thai exports were still growing.

He said the government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was satisfied with the way the Bank of Thailand was managing the baht and had had no need to issue guidelines to the central bank.

"The Bank of Thailand has done quite a good job keeping it stable and there is not a problem there at this moment," he said. *Reuters*

Costly strike at Hyundai finally ends

SEOUL—Nearly seven weeks of strikes at Hyundai Motor that cost South Korea's biggest car maker $1.2 billion in lost output ended on Wednesday, but the strike-ending deal to hike wages 8.6 percent worried investors.

Hyundai shares fell four percent as analysts said the deal, reached after overnight talks, would hurt Hyundai Motor's profits and potentially encourage further wage-hiking strikes in other industries.

"The management caved into the labor union with a white flag," said Chae Kyoung-sup, an analyst of Shinyoung Securities.

"If the union had elicited such a big concession this time, it can make more and stronger demands in the future and this will weigh on its management and revenues."

Under the agreement, the car maker pledged to raise pay by 98,000 won ($82.62) a month for each employee, or 8.6 percent, and to award one-off bonus and incentive payments, the union said in a statement.

Hyundai Motor also agreed not to lay off workers without the union's consent and to allow the union a bigger role in management decisions, in addition to the introduction of a five-day working week from September 1, it said.

Production volume at domestic plants will stay at the current level and the company will not close or reduce domestic facilities without the union's agreement, the union said.

The strikes by nearly 40,000 unionized workers lasted for 47 days. They were demanding wage increases and better working conditions. Hyundai Motor's Sales fell 40 percent in July from a year earlier. *Reuters*

Asian stocks follow Wall St.

SINGAPORE—Asian stock markets dipped on Wednesday, driven down by Wall Street and a slump in tech shares after poor results from Cisco, while a bomb attack in the Indonesian capital Jakarta spread jitters across the region.

The dollar steadied after speculative buying but remained mired below 120 yen, hit by a poor US Treasury auction on Tuesday and an IMF report that said America's economic recovery was uneven and there was room to further cut interest rates.

In Japan, tech stocks dragged down the Nikkei index after the slump on Wall Street and a steep after-hours fall in the shares of Cisco Systems Inc, the world's largest maker of equipment used in Internet traffic, following poor results.

But aggressive selling was checked by strength in Toyota Motor Corp., which reported narrower quarterly profit on Tuesday but forecast strong sales later in the year.

An MSCI index of shares elsewhere in the region was down 0.68 percent.

Stocks fell in Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Korea.

Indonesia recorded gains despite Tuesday's bomb blast which killed at least 14 people at a luxury hotel in Jakarta while Singapore and New Zealand were also up.

"Pre-market opening sentiment was weaker because of the blast and Wall Street," said Chan Tuck Sing, director at UOB Kay Hian in Singapore. *Reuters*

S. Korea, EU WTO talks on

GENEVA— South Korea is set to challenge the European Union over duties it has imposed on imports of computer memory chips, the World Trade Organization said Tuesday.

WTO officials said South Korea, which claims the duties breach global trade rules, made a formal request for consultations with the EU. Such a move is usually the first step to a full-blown legal dispute at the global trade body.

In April, the EU imposed a provisional 33 percent tax on imports of computer memory chips made by Hynix Semiconductor Inc., accusing the South Korean firm of receiving illegal government subsidies. Hynix is the world's third largest chip maker.

However, the EU cleared another South Korean chip maker, Samsung Electronics Co., No. 1 in the business worldwide, of any wrongdoing.

WTO members are allowed to take so-called "countervailing measures" if they believe other members are breaking the rules. But they run the risk of seeing their actions challenged before the WTO's dispute settlement tribunal.

The EU Commission initially said the provisional duty would be in force for four months. A formal decision on whether to extend the tax for five years is expected on Aug. 25, but 13 of the 15 EU governments are believed to back continuing the duties. *AP*

JAPAN'S cosmetic giant Shiseido researcher Hideki Takahashi, known as "Dr. Eyelashes", tries to apply mascara to his eyelashes at his laboratory in Yokohama, suburban Tokyo. Mascara development is challenging work for Takahashi all the more because Japan's mascara market is booming. AFP

US economic growth uneven–IMF

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday the US economic recovery was gathering steam but remained uneven, adding that the Federal Reserve had more room to cut interest rates if disinflation risks persist.

Consumer sentiment has improved with the end of the Iraq war and demand should rise with tax cuts, the rise in stock prices, low interest rates and falling oil prices, the fund said.

But it expressed concern about the erosion in the US government budget position, due in part to the latest tax cuts.

It said mounting deficits could make coping with the financial needs of the aging baby-boom generation tough and risked crowding out investment and hurting productivity growth.

The fund said "decisive" fiscal action was needed.

"Directors saw as priority for the US authorities to manage carefully the risks to the recovery, while establishing a credible approach for dealing with the longer-term fiscal problem," the IMF said in its review of the US economy.

The IMF projected US gross domestic product growth of around 2.25 percent in 2003 and 3.5 percent in 2004, estimates little changed from the April World Economic Outlook when the lender projected 2003 growth of 2.2 percent, rising to 3.6 percent in 2004.

The Federal Reserve won praise for a "strong and proactive" response to the US economic woes.

The IMF said it welcomed the central bank's willingness to consider alternative policy tools should they be needed to forestall deflation.

Short-term interest rates stand at a 45-year low after 13 cuts since the beginning of 2001.

The fund projected a decline in inflation as measured by the consumer price index to around 1.25 percent this year, rebounding as the slack in the economy gets taken up.

The IMF suggested the Fed set out a medium-term price goal, saying this could help anchor inflation expectations, "especially in the present situation of very low interest rates and concerns about possible, albeit remote, deflation risks."

Although the economy clambered out of a mild recession in 2001, growth has been slow to accelerate.

The deficit in the US current account, the broadest measure of trade, has swelled to around 5 percent of gross domestic product. However, the fund said the dollar's recent slide may help narrow the gap to more sustainable levels. *Reuters*

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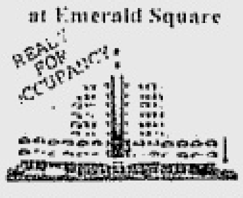

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In compliance with POEA Rules & Regulations, we wish to inform the public that the following persons ceased to be connected with **ARPAPHIL SHIPPING CORP.** as from the date indicated opposite their name:

ALBERTO P. OLORES – 19 Nov. 2002 (Resigned)
ELEONOR C. MAGPANTAY – 31 Dec. 2002 (Resigned)
CECILIA R. STA. ANA – 24 July 2003 (Resigned)

THE MANAGEMENT

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IN RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE PROBATE OF THE WILL OF CARLOS P. FERNANDEZ, DECEASED AND ISSUANCE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

VICENTE T. FERNANDEZ,
Petitioner
- versus -
SP. PROC No. M-5030
MIGUEL L. FERNANDEZ and
CARMEN FERNANDEZ BEAVES,
Oppositors
x - x

IN RE: IN THE MATTER OF INTESTATE OF CARLOS P. FERNANDEZ
MIGUEL L. FERNANDEZ
Petitioner
- versus -
VICENTE T. FERNANDEZ,
Oppositor
x - - - - - - - - x

ORDER
(Letters Testamentary / of Administration)

A joint decision dated 7 January 2003 having been rendered in the above entitled cases in favor of herein petitioner Vicente T. Fernandez as Executor of the last Will of the late Carlos P. Fernandez which has been admitted for probate pursuant to the said judgment and the Order dated 7 June 2003.

It is HEREBY ORDERED that notice be, and the same is hereby given requiring all person having claims for money against the decedent Carlos P. Fernandez, arising from contracts, express or implied, whether the same be due, not due or contingent, for funeral expenses and expenses of the last sickness of the said decedent, and judgement for money against him, to file said claims with the Clerk of this Court sitting at the 4th floor Gusaling Katarungan F. Zobel, Makati City, within six (6) months from the last publication of this Order/Notice which is directed to be published at the expense of the Estate of said decedent, for three (3) consecutive weeks at a newspaper of general circulation, serving a copy of the said claim upon the aforementioned Vicente T. Fernandez, the appointed Executor of the last Will of the said decedent relative to herein subject Estate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, this 1 July 200[illegible]

(Sgd.) CESAR D. SANTAMARIA
Presiding Judge

(PDI – July 31, Aug. 7 & 14, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
4th Judicial Region
BRANCH 26
Santa Cruz, Laguna

SALVADOR QUIMSON MANGA, JR.
Petitioner
SP PROC SC-1773
-versus-
ANICIA NEBRES GUERRERO,
Respondent.
x- - - - -

DECISION

WHEREFORE, judgment is hereby rendered:

a) declaring the marriage between petitioner and respondent as null and void

b) dividing share and share alike between the parties their common properties which consist of (a) the house and lot in Kalarungan Village, Barangay Halang, Cainta, Rizal, and (b) the lot in Camalig, Albay; and (c) awarding custody of the minor Myers Denise Manga in favor of respondent.

Let the dispositive portion of the decision be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, at the expense of petitioner, and the decree of absolute nullity be issued after compliance with Articles 50 and 51 of the Family Code as implemented under the Rule on Liquidation, Partition and Distribution of Properties.

Let also copies of this decision be furnished the National Statistics Office, Local Civil Registrar of Victoria, Laguna, Office of the Provincial Prosecutor and the Office of the Solicitor General.

SO ORDERED.

Santa Cruz, Laguna, July 30, 2003.

(Sgd.) PABLO B. FRANCISCO
Judge

(PDI - Aug. 7, 2003)

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late AMADA M. PORTUGAL was adjudicated to DINO JOSEPH M. MACALINO per Doc. 116, Page 22, Book 1 Series of 2003 before Notary Public J.M. Miranda of City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
(PDI-July 25, 31 & Aug. 7, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost S2 ID #4493640 of Dr. Orson V. Odulio (PDI-Aug.7, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WE COLLECT UR BAD DEBTS
BOUNCED CHECKS
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Work Fr Home 09209071038

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER
O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls and the souls for whom we pray Thou knowest. O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits iniquity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen

---

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City Tel. no. 928-4501 to 09
able Address: "Philcoa" [illegible] Manila TIN# [illegible]

NOTICE OF SALE
"As Is, Where Is"

There will be a re-bidding on the auction sales of the hereunder fertilizers aggregated into one (1) lot at the Philippine Coconut Authority, Diliman, Quezon City on August 21, 2003.

Types of Fertilizers		Quantity/No. of Bags	
Ammonium Sulfate	(AS)	30,380 bags	
Potassium Chloride	(KCl)	11,400	
Superphosphate	(SP)	23,780	One
Salt	(NaCl)	7,970	
Dolomite	(Dol)	4,040	
Total		77,570 bags more or less	

Said fertilizers are available for inspection at the PCA Regional Office in Lucena City and warehouse in Tiaong, Quezon during office hours.

Sealed bids on an "As Is, Where Is" basis in the prescribed form shall be received together with their Stand-by Bidder's Bond equivalent to ten Percent (10%) of the total bid amount in Cash, Manager's Check, or Cashier's Check until 2:00 PM on the abovementioned date at the Executive Lounge, 8th floor, R & D Building, Philippine Coconut Authority, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

For interested parties, bid documents can be secured at the Procurement Operations Division, 2nd Floor, R & D Bldg. For more details, please contact telephone no. 927-84-28 or 924-47-61.

Pre-bid Conference — August 15, 2003 (Friday) at 2:00 PM
Registration Fee — Php 2,000.00 (non-refundable)
Bid Bond — 10% of Bid Price

(Sgd.) DENNIS J. CALUB
Chairman, Committee on Appraisal and
Auction of Undelivered SCFDP Fertilizers

(PDI – Aug. 6, 7 & 8, 2003)

---

11 'Most Powerful Women' in IT recognized

IT WAS like one of those beauty pageants, but without the crown and the swimsuit competition. Glitzy and glamorous, that was the kind of evening affair the IT community saw in the awarding ceremonies of the "Most Powerful Women in IT" last July 25 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. In fancy long gowns, instead of their usual corporate blazers, 11 women executives received recognition for their contributions to the country's ICT industry from *Enterprise*, the monthly e-business magazine published by Media G8way Corporation, formerly WS Computer Publishing Corp., and a sister publication of *Computerworld Philippines*.

From the ranks of the 250 executives of the 50 biggest IT corporations in the Philippines, Maricor Akol, Carol Carreon, Wilma Cruz, Nenita-Lim Cruz, Dittas Formoso, Lilia Guillermo, Rose Hwan, Cynthia Mamon, Mary Anne Tolentino, Judith Duavit-Vazquez and Jojie Yap made it to *Enterprise*'s list of the "Most Powerful Women in IT." Only 8% of the 250 executives are women.

Unlike in pageants where vital statistics and face value are far more important, *Enterprise* considered three criteria to determine the amount of influence the nominees wielded: position, size of the company or organization, and accomplishments, both personal accomplishments and the achievements of the organization under her leadership.

Although the number of women executives in the IT industry is small, Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr., in his keynote speech, noted the fact that women's work in the local IT environment has evolved from word processing to computer programming, analysis, and decision-making.

Along with these prominent women personalities in the IT industry, other celebrities who graced the occasion were actress and TV host Regine Tolentino who co-emceed the event with Tomas Emerito Magdangal, Government Organization for Information Technology (GO-IT) national president. Hajji Alejandro serenaded the 11 ladies while TV personality and bemedalled swimmer Christine Jacob watched the show together with husband and *Computerworld Philippines* columnist Francisco 'Paco' Sandejas.

NO JOBS IN IRAQ YET
Call POEA at
722-1144 or 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail. sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph
Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

SSS ID CARD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE SERVICES & ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR BARCODE PROJECT

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** is inviting bidders for the following:

1. Two (2) year contract for the Comprehensive Maintenance of the Social Security Identification Card System composed of Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), Card Production System, Data Capture and Mailing System. Bid for the maintenance of the major components of the ID System is divided as follows:

Lot 1 **Card Production System.** A module of the ID System consisting of hardware and software that prints, laminates, cuts, and individually encodes information of ID cards on magnetic stripe.

Approved Budget for the Contract for one (1) year: P7,610,000.00

Lot 2 **Mailing System.** A module of the ID System consisting of hardware and software that packages the ID cards for mailing.

Approved Budget for the Contract for one (1) year: P5,000,000.00

Lot 3 **Automated Fingerprint Identification System.** A module of the ID System consisting of hardware and software that receives and validates card applications; maintains the fingerprint database.

Approved Budget for the Contract for one (1) year: P35,000,000.00

Funding will be taken from the approved budget for SSS ID Card System Maintenance for CY2003. For dollar components of the bid, the exchange rate used is $1·P54.

Prospective bidders must have at least three (3) years experience of providing maintenance services for the foregoing hardware and software in either foreign or local sites and have certified personnel, tools and equipment to perform the required services the detailed evaluation of bids shall be based on quality cost procedure.

2. Supply, delivery and installation of two (2) units Barcode Printer and twelve (12) units Mobile Barcode Reader.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P2,700,000.00
Contract Duration	Thirty (30) calendar days
Source of Funding	Capital Expenditures - Barcode Project

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue Diliman, Quezon City starting **August 7 to 25, 2003.** To cover the cost of the Request for Proposals (RFP)/bid documents, the eligible bidders shall be required to pay a non-refundable fee as follows:

Item No.	Non-Refundable Fee
Item #1 (Lot 1)	P 5,000.00
Item #1 (Lot 2)	P 1,000.00
Item #1 (Lot 3)	P 20,000.00
Item #2	P 1,000.00

For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. Below is the deadline for the submission of eligibility documents.

Item No.	Deadline
1	August 28, 2003
2	August 29, 2003

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Aug 7, 2003)

Rottweiler Puppies

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PCCI Registered 3f / 2m
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948-9827 / 948-9395

CARS FOR SALE

1) **Honda Accord**
Black, 97 Model, Plate ending 1, 50,000 kms.,
Price: P480,000.00

2) **Terrano**
Red, 97 Model, Plate ending 9, 51,000 kms.,
Price: P490,000.00

Please call: **823-2627 / 0917-3230637**

LIGHT
RAIL
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

CONTRACT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LRT LINE 1 SYSTEM
Approved Budget for the Contract from Corporate Funds: PhP 410,400,000.00
Contract Duration: Two (2) Years

Bid Documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila during regular office hours on **August 7 & 8, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIFTEEN THOUSAND (P15,000.00) PESOS.** Interested Bidders which have purchased the Bid Documents issued in March 2003 and during the period July 2-4, 2003 are exempted from said payment.

Site inspection will be held in the morning of **August 11, 2003.** For purposes of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference shall be held on **August 11, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the above address. Deadline for the submission of documents for eligibility/prequalification shall be on **August 21, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. The BAC Secretariat shall receive sealed bids from eligible/pre-qualified Bidders not later than 2:00 p.m. **September 5, 2003** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

The determination of eligibility shall be based on the non-discretionary "Pass-Fail" criteria concerning requirements on experience, personnel capability, financial capacity, as well as formality and completeness of submitted documents.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the Bidder may incur in the preparation of its bid, and will entertain only such bid established to be most advantageous to the LRTA.

(Sgd.) EVANGELINE M. RAZON
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 1 & 7, 2003)

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

Headquarters and Gen. Pool
Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines 3120
Fax 63 (44) 456-0730
Tel 63 (44) 456-0731 to 34
Email [illegible]
Manila Liaison Office
5/F DCIEC Bldg. NIA Cmpd., EDSA
Quezon City, Philippines
Tel/Fax [illegible]

August 4, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture is inviting all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

	Packages	Approved Budget
I.	Semen Processing and Artificial Insemination Supplies	P 2,570,000.00
II.	Veterinary Drugs and Supplies	1,500,000.00
III.	Tires	269,000.00
IV.	Laboratory Equipment	1,000,000.00
	Total	P 5,339,000.00

The date of bidding and pre-bidding conference including the eligibility requirements are detailed as follows:

Date of bidding	September 12, 2003, 10:00 a.m.
Place of bidding	PCC Liaison Office, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City

A. Requirements to be submitted on the date of the bidding

Envelope 1	(Eligibility Envelope)
Envelope 2	(Technical Envelope)
Envelope 3	(Price Envelope)
Pre-bid conference	August 29, 2003 10:00 AM, place of pre-bid conference PCC Liaison Office, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City
Issuance of Instructions to Bidders, Bid Proposal Forms bidding documents	August 11 to 21, 2003

B. Eligibility Requirements:
- B.1 Legal Documents
  - Mayor's Permit Municipal License (Current)
  - DTI/SEC Registration (Current)
  - BIR, TIN and VAT Registrations
  - Statement that the firm is not blacklisted by any government office, agency or corporation
- B.2.1 Technical Documents
  - Track record of previous similar transactions/sales delivered and accepted
  - Purchase Order related to the items to be procured. The previous sales or contract shall be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the item to be bidded
  - A valid Bureau of Foods and Drugs registration of the product shall also be submitted
- B.2.2 Financial Documents
  - Financial Statement stamped "Received" by the BIR for the immediate preceding calendar or fiscal years duly notarized. The working capital (current assets less current liabilities) of the two (2) audited Financial Statements shall be at least equal to the total amount of the approved agency estimate
  - Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of cash or manager's/cashier's check from a bank or financial institution

For further information, please call Engr. Eduardo Dalusong, Procurement Officer at telephone numbers (044) 4560-731 to 34 or Mr. Rogel M. dela Cuesta at telephone numbers 926-7707 and 921-3863

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation and Award shall be governed by Republic Act No. 9184 and Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001 and its implementing rules and regulations.

(Sgd.) LIBERTADO C. CRUZ
Executive Director

(PDI - Aug 7 & 8 2003)

GIA

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PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024 / Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY, PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility prequalification and to submit sealed bids for the contract mining of the proposed LUMBOG 2 SATELLITE MINE (Small-scale Mine) located in Barangay Lumbog, Municipality of Imelda Province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

The contractor's offer for the project shall be on a cost per ton basis of coal delivered FOB PNOC EC Malangas Pier subject to PNOC EC's coal specifications.

Only contractors who will comply with PNOC EC's eligibility and prequalification requirements shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding.

Prequalification and Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Operations Services Group (c/o Mr. Emmanuelito A. Ababol) from August 7-21, 2003, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Thousand (PHP1,000.00). Deadline for submission of eligibility and prequalification requirements shall be on September 1, 2003, 3:00 P.M.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by Contracts Administration not later than 3:00 P.M. of October 10, 2003 at PNOC EC Conference Room Bldg. 1 of the above address and then publicly opened at 3:15 P.M. of the same date.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on September 12, 2003, 2:00 P.M. at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1 of the above address.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted at DBM Website: www.procurementservices.net, PNOC-EC Website: www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and PSEM Website: www.psem.ph

(Sgd.) Rufino B. Bomasang
President and CEO

(PDI–August 7, 2003)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632)840-1459

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This publication is also posted at DBM Website: www.procurementservices.net.ph PNOC-EC Website: www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and PSEM Website: www.psem.ph

(Sgd.) RUFINO B. BOMASANG
President and CEO

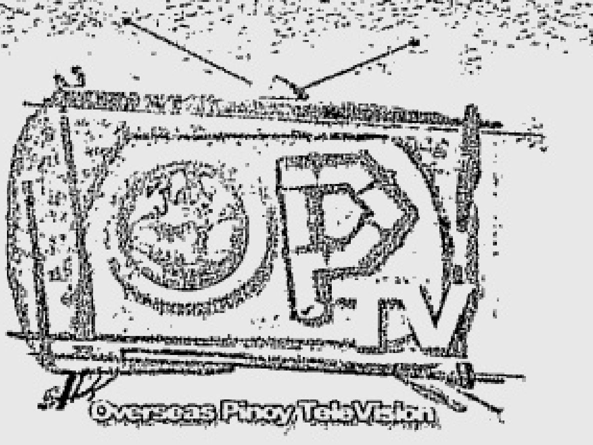
(PDI – August 7, 2003)

"I'm leaving on a jet plane. To dream the impossible dream. Habang may buhay..."

BEFORE I LET YOU GO, I WANT TO SAY I LOVE YOU. BAKIT PAPA, SINABI MO PA. SA ISIP KO'Y YAKAP KA PA. DI KO KAYANG TANGGAPIN. HONEY, MY LOVE SO SWEET. AT SA 'YONG PAGLISAN, ANG TANGING PABAON KO AY PAG-IBIG.

BIL' MO KO NUN, BIL' MO KO NYAN. BILLS, BILLS, BILLS. SUMAYAW SUMUNOD KA SA INDAK NG PANAHON. ANAK NG PASIG NAMAN KAYO! TAPON DOON TAPON DITO. MAMA I LOVE YOU, MAMA I CARE. KAYA COOL KA LANG. THERE CAN BE MIRACLES WHEN YOU BELIEVE.

BABALIK KANG MULI. BONGGA KA DAY, BONGGA KA DAY. [illegible] KITA. [illegible] SA PUSO AY [illegible] TOGETHER AGAIN.



Hosted by Kata Inocencio, Richard Merk, Inah Borra, Tonette Quiogue.
Written by Manny Castañeda. Directed by Don Escudero.
Production Design by Mike Guison

TUWING LUNES NG GABI 11PM AT REPLAY TUWING MIYERKULES, 10 AM SA 9

MAPAPANOOD NA SA ABROAD, SA ABS-CBN'S
THE FILIPINO CHANNEL
(Japan, Middle East, US)

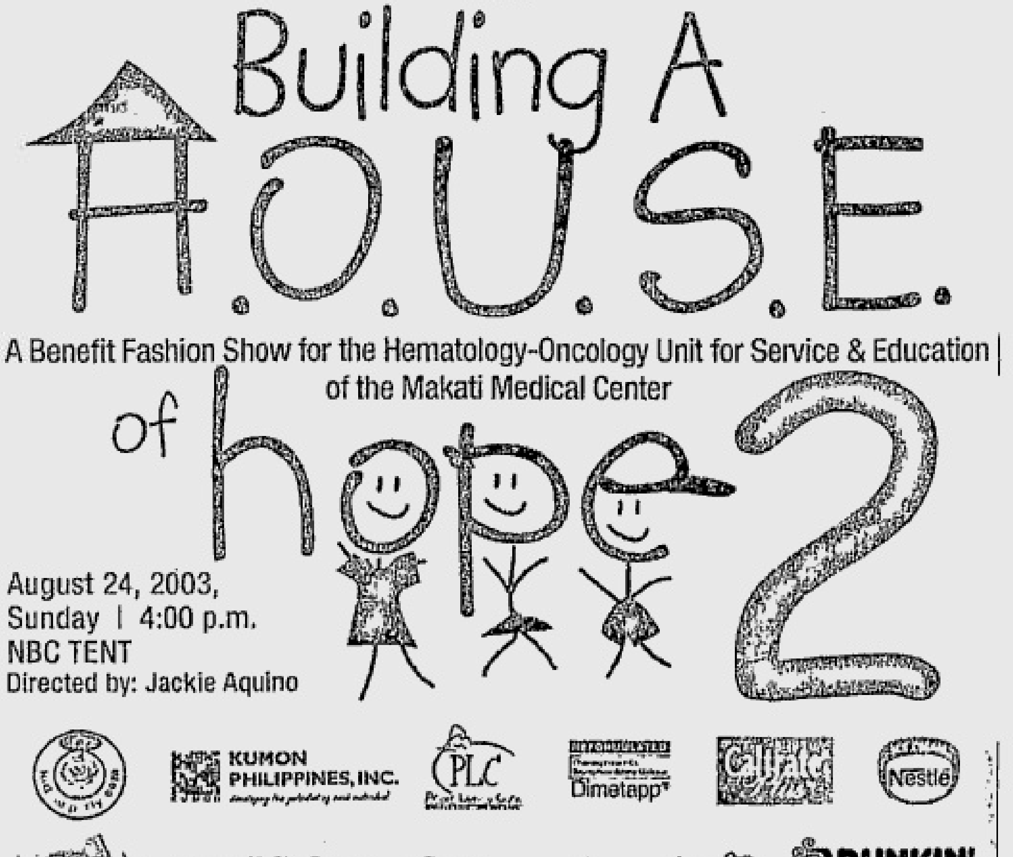
A production of Wall City Entertainment.

Big & Small Co. SPIN. Orange Juice Havin' A Baby

In cooperation with

NBC Nestlé Mommy Academy

present



A Benefit Fashion Show for the Hematology-Oncology Unit for Service & Education of the Makati Medical Center

August 24, 2003,
Sunday | 4:00 p.m.
NBC TENT
Directed by: Jackie Aquino

KUMON PHILIPPINES, INC. PLC Dimetapp Nestlé
Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc. Max's DUNKIN' DONUTS
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(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

VICTORINO S. ESPIRITU

(OF PATEROS & MARIKINA, M.M.)

Died on August 4, 2003
at the age of 68.

His loving wife, Mercedes;
children Amy, Belle, Jun, Norman,
Ronnie, Dennis, Godofredo, Catherine,
Ij, Louie; grandchildren; brothers, sisters,
in-laws, relatives and friends mourn his
passing and wish
his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at Chapel 5,
Garden of Memories,
Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday,
August 10, 2003 at the
Garden of Memories Memorial Park,
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, M.M.
after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

"And ... I will dwell in the House
of the Lord ... Forever."
Psalm 23

You are Always in Our Hearts

JUSTINO (Ike) A. BANARIA

10th Death Anniversary
August 8, 2003

We, your family, request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of your soul.

Holy Masses will be offered on August 8, 2003 at:

SACRED HEART PARISH CHURCH
Kamuning, Quezon City ...... 6:00 AM
MONASTERIO DE STA. CLARA
Katipunan Road, Quezon City ...... 6:00 AM
STA. MARIA DELLA STRADA PARISH
Katipunan Road, Quezon City ...... 6:00 AM
PARISH OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE
U.P., Quezon City ...... 6:00 AM
ST. PAUL, THE APOSTLE PARISH CHURCH
Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City ...... 6:00 AM

Masses/prayers will be offered at Los Angeles, New Jersey and San Francisco, U.S.A.

Prayers will be offered on August 9, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. at No. 10 Scout Bayoran St., South Triangle, Quezon City.

BENITO M. TANYAG

VP for Administration CALI Mercantile, Inc.

who died on August 4, 2003
at the age of 64.

His remains now lie in state at the Chapel 2,
Funeraria Filipinas, Inc., Makati City.

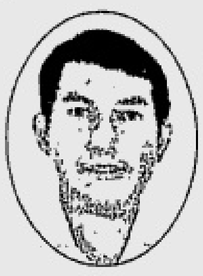
Interment will be on August 9, 2003,
Saturday at the Manila South Cemetery
after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the
Funeraria Filipinas Chapel.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

"I am the Resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, though he may die,
he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me
shall never die." — John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of



ESTEBAN 'STEVE' B. DEL ROSARIO

(October 27, 1947 – August 07, 2002)

His wife **MYLENE**; and their children **VINCENT**,
CHRISTINE, **JOHN CHRISTIAN** and **JEAN PAUL**;

His brothers, sisters, in-laws, relatives,
the Social Security System Staff, the Couples for Christ,
the Jesus Is Alive Ministry and friends, extend their sincerest
thanks to all who offered prayers, masses, flowers
and in some other way condoled with them
in the hour of their bereavement.

In Loving Memory
of

DUMB-DUMB

January 29, 1995 - August 3, 2003
Our beloved dog, trusted companion & best friend
who will be sorrowly missed, now peacefully at rest
in the Infinite Grace of our Lord
(August 3, 2003, 9:20 p.m.)

Survived by her parents, RPM and MMM.
Her siblings: PPM, NPM, and AM3,
grandparents: AVM & BTM,
Uncle and Aunts: Dr. RSF & IPMF, TPM and ATM,
Cousins: IMF and Jewel

Message of Thanks

Dr. Glorificacion Elizalde-Nazareno and
Dr. Sofia Elizalde, sisters of the late

ATTY. NAPOLEON F. ELIZALDE

along with his adopted family,
Mr. & Mrs. Amor and Pacita Ablazo, **Dennis & Daisy**, **Francisca**, **Patricio & Erlinda**, **Amor Jr.**, **Virginia**, **Rodolfo Abelardo**, and grandson **Christian Andrei**, wish to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all those who shared their prayers and sympathy when he joined his Creator on August 4, 2003.

Our sincere thanks...

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City, Tels 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels (082) 227-1201, 227-1258
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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EDUARDO M. VILLANUEVA

"EDDIE"

Passed away in the grace of Our Lord
on August 4, 2003 at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Aurora Buñag Villanueva**; children & spouses **Edwin & Peewee**, **Beth & Larry Agregado**, **Arlene & Ernest Cu**, **Gina & Josef Weinzeirl**, **Gary & Marilen**, **Cynthie & Alex Gloger**; grandchildren: **Joedie**, **Beejay**, **Jeremy**, **Ginger**, **Johncy**, **Aissa**, **Geejay**, **Cristina**, **Martin**, **Arianna**, **Stephanie**, **Marty**, **Samantha**, **Chris & Nicki** and other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Memorial Chapels, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday 9:00 AM August 9, 2003 at the main church of Santuario de San Antonio. Cremation will follow immediately.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Our Lady of Angels Seminary would be greatly appreciated.

Praise to the holy woman whose home is built
on faithful love and whose pathway leads to God.
Proverbs 14:1-2

Carmen Locsin Kilayko

Widow of **Francisco Lizares-Kilayko**

Died in the grace of the Lord on
August 4, 2003 at the age of 86.

Her children,
Enrique Jose (Ike), **Carmen Isabel (Carmencita)**, and **Milagros Maria (Millie)**,
daughter-in-law **Doris Kosakowski**, son-in-law **Ernesto Maalat**,
sister and brothers **Dolores (Lolita) Consing**, **Manuel** and **Eduardo Locsin**,
brothers-in-law **Jose Maria** and **Juan Kilayko**,
sisters-in-law **Remedios Diaz-Locsin**, **Jeanette R. de Luzuriaga-Locsin**,
Evelyn Lao-Kilayko, and **Sarah Olmedo-Kilayko**,
grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends,
request your prayers for her peaceful passage home to Heaven.

She lies in state at Alisbo Memorial Chapels, Mandalagan,
interment will be at Bacolod Memorial Park
on Saturday, August 9th, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass
at Carmelite Monastery, Bacolod City.

She would appreciate donations for
St. Vincent's Home for the Aged,
to which she devoted herself immensely, in lieu of flowers.

Our Dearly Beloved

FELICIANA PARAYNO DE VERA

Passed away in the presence of our Lord
On August 3, 2003 at the age of 85.
And joined her husband, Congressman **Felipe de Vera** (†)

Her loving children **Rene** and **Laura Garcia**, **Lito** (†) and **Ester Montano**, **Joel** and **Lina Obedoza**, **Arnold** and **Priscila Bauzon**, **Albert** and **Mila Sta. Maria**, **Celso** and **Nene de Vera**, **Rey** and **Rose Fajardo**; brothers, sisters, grandchildren, great grandchildren **Janelle** and **Chelsey**, relatives and friends request prayers to the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state in Ex-Mayor Felipe de Vera, Jr. residence in Calasiao Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 9, 2003, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in St. Peter & Paul Church, in the Town Cemetery.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

Psalm 21:15

Brisk construction pace at Bay Gardens

FEDERAL Land, Inc. announced the brisk construction pace of their Bay Gardens Condominiums-Anchor Bay Tower, which is located at Metropolitan Park in Pasay City. With a planned turnover originally scheduled for a year-end, the construction of the 3rd tower is already at 94 percent completion stage, with most interior and exterior works being spiffed up for an even earlier target completion date of September 2003.

For the construction to be completed three (3) months ahead of schedule, this is certainly good news for the home buyers of Bay Gardens, who have already invested on purchase of 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom or 3-bedroom units at this luxurious bayside residential high-rise.

Following the footsteps of its first two towers (Boardwalk and Crystal Bay) which were originally scheduled for turnover March 2002, but instead, completed and delivered to the residents by December of 2001-these residents were able to celebrate the Christmas holidays in their new home by the bay.

A resident can enjoy peace and security within wide open spaces of the entire park development, relish the cool evening breezes from the bay; take a dip by the cascading waterfalls of its resort-style pool; or opt for an extensive workout in the 15-meter heated, lapping pool, and the badminton & basketball courts which are all part if the completed development.

Other interesting facilities include an aerobic/workout gym overlooking the poolside, a fully equipped kiddie room/play area for toddlers and a podium garden with Japanese bridge, fountains and lush, tropical landscape.

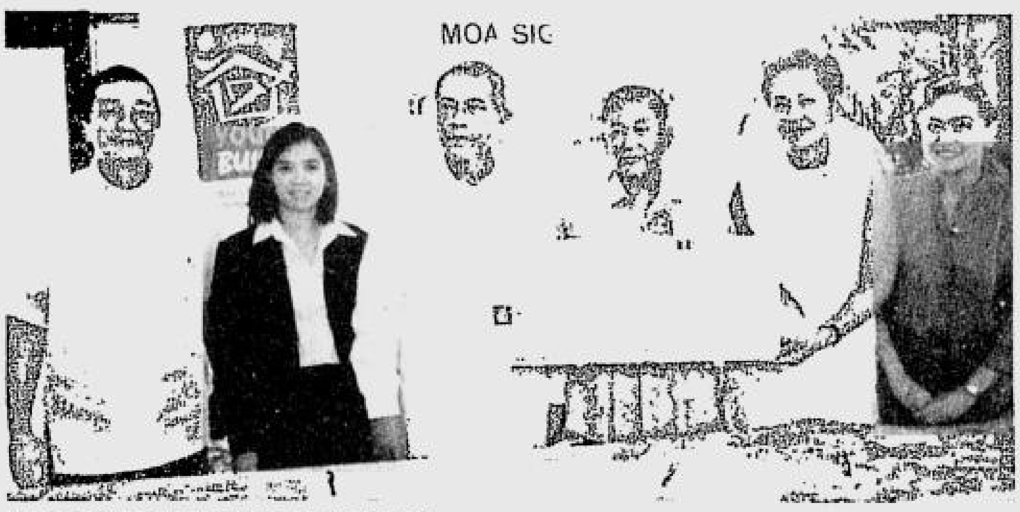
Each residential unit is equipped with modern conveniences such as 3 high-speed elevators; automatic stand-by power generator; split-type air conditioning systems for living and dining rooms; built-in mechanical kitchen & bath exhaust systems; high and lower level modular kitchen cabinets with laminate worktops; double-bowl sinks and cooking hobs with range hood; maids quarters and utility space with provisions for a washing machine.

For safety and security, all units have standard smoke detectors, fire alarm systems, building annunciator panels & fire extinguisher on each floor, as well as individual audio/video security phones to monitor guest entry & access from the lobby levels. 24-hour security and concierge assistance at the lobby level of each tower, gives added peace of mind for Bay Gardens residents.

Interested parties may call the Designer Showroom, which is open daily from 9:00 am to 6:00 p.m. at 551-0888. You can also log on to www.baygardens.com.ph.

HONDA RECEIVES NATIONAL CONSUMERS AWARD

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was recently bestowed by the Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) an award for being the Outstanding Manufacturer of Compact Cars, under the product brand name Honda Civic, for the year 2003. With the award given, Filipinos are assured that Honda gives them quality products they deserve. Photo shows Honda Cars Philippines Inc. president and general manager Mitsunari Takano, flanked by CUP officers, receiving the award for HCPI.



NEW PARTNER FOR HABITAT

Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HfHP) managing director Relli Pableo (3rd from right) and AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical Philippines president Edgardo Enriquez (3rd from left) hold up a mock up check which symbolizes AstraZeneca's support for HfHP Foundation projects. The donation, amounting to P240,000 will be used to build two houses at a designated HfHP site in the National Capital Region. To build the sponsored houses, AstraZeneca will mobilize its own staff as volunteers to work side-by-side with HfHP homepartners, or those marginalized families who are in need of decent and affordable houses. Photo also shows (from left) AstraZeneca vice president for manufacturing Rene Valino, HR manager Carmen Guiterrez, HfHP resource development director Angela Backstrom and Youth Build ambassador and news anchor Karen Davila. For inquiries and donations, call 632-9092 or visit the official HfHP website at www.habitat.org.ph.

SMB PLAY LIVE

The Dawn lead guitarist Atsushi Matsuurat (3rd from right) and vocalist Jett Pangan (4th from right) gamely pose with Livewire production team during the launching of SMB Play at the Podium. San Miguel Beer engaged the expertise of Livewire during the press launch. Livewire is a strategic events management agency whose clients include Fun Characters International --Walt Disney, Colgate Palmolive Philippines, San Miguel Beer, AMA Group of Companies and Sonera-zed. For product launches, marketing promotions and other corporate special events requirements call 752-3030 or 752-4040.

LYCEUM SPONSORS COLLEGE CALLS 2003

Lyceum of the Philippines agrees to be a major sponsor of College Calls 2003: The 2nd College and Universities Exposition on Aug. 7 to 9 at the Megatrade Hall 3, 5th level Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Shown in the photo (seated from left) lawyer Roberto Laurel, president of Lyceum; Inier Candor, CEO, Events Media Marketing Inc.; (standing from left) Magdalena Muñoz-Shih, public relations and advertising director of Lyceum; and Apple Deferia, managing partner, Adcamp Inc.

Megatrade Hall 3
5th Level, Building B
SM Megam
Mandaluyc

18th PAC registration now open to students

Calling advertising students and enthusiasts who wish to experience a once-in-a-lifetime chance of learning the tricks of the advertising trade from the industry bigwigs.

Registration is now open for students who intend to participate in the forthcoming 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC), scheduled to be held from November 19 to 22 at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center in Baguio City.

For the first time in Ad Congress history, students will be allowed to register as regular delegates provided they pay the non-Adboard member rate currently pegged at P10,000 (until Aug. 31 only).

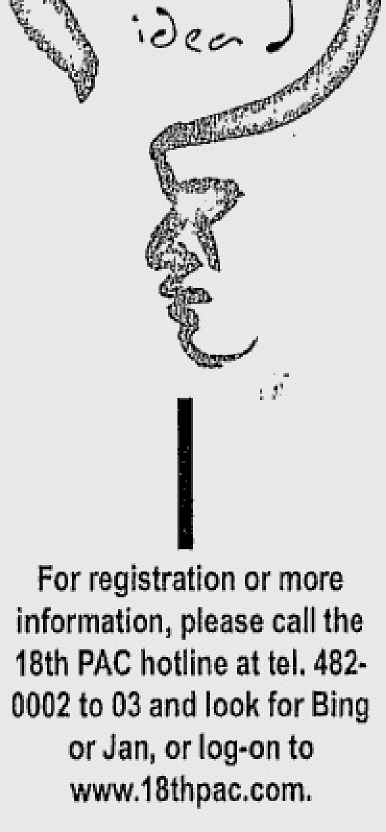
"We encourage students to participate and be part of this event. They will learn and experience the real world of advertising and meet the bigwigs in the industry. Learning is at its best if extended beyond the four corners of the classroom," said Dodie Lucas, chairman of the administrative committee of the 18th PAC.

A special Student registration is also available at a discounted rate of P3,000, and this fee exclusive of meals, Congress kits, and attendance in official Congress functions.

Students are required to present their school IDs upon registration to avail themselves of the discount.

Meanwhile, interested individuals still have until August 31 to take advantage of the advance registration discounted rate of P9,000 (for Adboard members) and P10,000 (for non-members). Starting September 1, the regular registration rates are at P10,000 (Adboard member) and P11,000 (non-members). Foreign delegates have a fixed regular registration fee of US$300.

The regular registration fee covers Congress kits, handouts, breakfasts, lunches, dinners, shuttle service to and from congress or meal venue and accredited hotels, or its vicinity, within the duration of the Congress. However, registration fee excludes travel and hotel accommodations.



For registration or more information, please call the 18th PAC hotline at tel. 482-0002 to 03 and look for Bing or Jan, or log-on to www.18thpac.com.

Bits & Clips

Wofex 2003 ongoing until Aug. 9

WORLD'S Food Expo (Wofex) 2003 opened Aug. 6 and will be held at the World Trade Center until Aug. 9. A Wofex 2003 co-located event to watch out for is the World Food Summit. Guests can learn the basics of putting up a business and developing the competitive edge in the restaurant business in the first part of the Entrepreneur and Restaurant Series. Today, take advantage of the Entrepreneur Series Part II. Simultaneous to this is an exclusive seminar on Innovative Baking by Cosmic Chemical. To take off on Aug. 8 are the Food Technological Series. On the same day is a culinary seminar by the Hotel and Restaurants Chefs Association of the Philippines (HRCAP). On Aug. 9, the Teams Training Experts and Management Specialist Consulting will teach the participants on the strategies in developing a winning team in the food business. Also on the same day is the Catering Series to be conducted by the Food Caterers' Association of the Philippines. Aside from the World Food Summit, Wofex 2003 proudly brings the Baker's Fair, Foodmach Expo and the Taste Expo. Be a part of this year's biggest trade show. Call Premier Events Plus Group Inc. now at tel. nos. 436-4711 to 12, 929-7963, 929-7993, 436-4898, or via email at info@PEPGroup.com for inquiries and reservations on Wofex 2003.

Fun days at Storyland

WHAT makes Storyland a popular venue for corporate fun days? The answer is simple - Storyland has all the fun elements to make your event a success. Picture this - a big live entertainment area complete with sounds and lights system with an audience capacity of approximately 500 heads, food concessionaires for your gastronomic pleasures, mascots and clowns roaming in the area to make sure your guests really have a good time, party favors and amenities to complete the fun look and fun-tastic ride adventures. Popular fast food chains have been taking turns in holding their fun days at Storyland because of the guaranteed adventure the park offers to their club members. Your company too can experience what they had. So treat your employees and their families to a whole day of fun and adventure. Bring them all to Storyland.

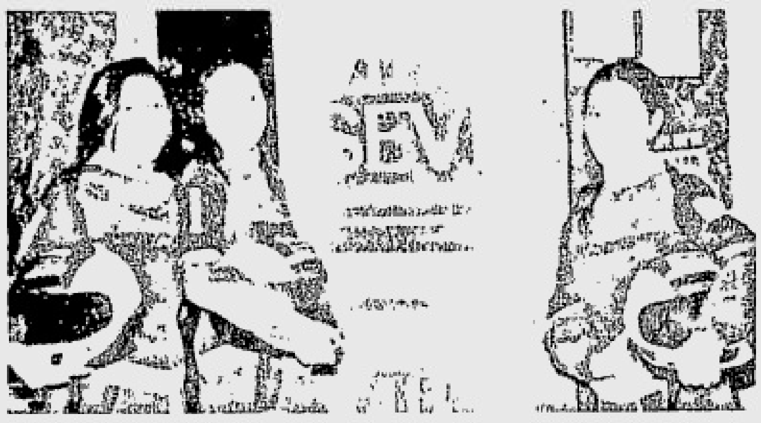
RCSJW touches hearts

THE Rotary Club of San Juan West (RCJSW) now on its 15th fruitful years had once again touched the hearts of the young Filipino kids through its recently launched "Unang Hakbang Program" at Holy Trinity Special Education and Physical Rehabilitation Center. This is located at Porac, Pampanga where they have given reading materials, slippers, cookies, coffee and a wheelchair to the center. RCJSW was established in 1988 with its first president Chito San Jose. Since then, it has given enormous care to our less fortunate Filipinos. Now, the newly elected president Agusto Soliman makes the club an even better supporter of the needy. The Rotary threw a party for the orphanage of the mentioned place as part of their 15th Strong Year Anniversary.

OF BATANGAS

CHI RECEIVES MALAMPAYA SAFETY AWARD

Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (Spex), operator of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project, conferred a Safety Award to Canadian Helicopters Phils. International (CHI) for safely operating without any lost time incident over a three-year period. Spex health, safety and environment manager Martin Castle and Malampaya Batangas supply base manager Raffy Cosme represented the awards to CHI regional manager Mark Pellow and Philippines base manager Nick Hayden.



MILD SEVEN LAUNCHES 'SLIPSTREAM'

Mild Seven recently launched 'Slipstream' and is geared to take pole position, both in the F1 racetracks around the world and in the bar scene in Metro Manila. Stemming from it's success in Formula 1, Mild seven came up with 'Slipstream', the radical and innovative Metro-wide bar tour. In metro Manila, Friday and Saturday nights are 'Slipstream' nights. Mild Seven's Pit Babes make pit stops at some of the most popular nightspots in search of loyal Mild Seven patrons. Those who are spotted with the Mild Seven packs get to experience the thrill of an actual Formula 1 race with the Mild Seven F1 race around a specially designed miniature track.

BATHROOM BEAUTIFUL

Breaking standards in bathroom fixtures, Hocheng Philippines Corp. (HPC) has unveiled its new line of HCG products in celebration of its five years in the Philippines. HCG bathroom fixtures which are exported in 20 countries around the world are known for its classic European design and outstanding American function at affordable packages. Showing off the stylish bathroom set are (from right) HPC senior adviser Raul Boncan, HCG Taiwan board director Scott Chiu, HPC executive vice president Steven Chien, and HPC assistant vice president Sam Lu.

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Accord most frequent car make chosen by top execs

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOR MOST employees, getting a company car is the best and most visible reward for loyalty and high performance.

Employers recognize this fact, thus, explains the care given by many of the country's top corporations in drafting their car loan benefits to either attract or retain their top people.

The third edition of the "Car Report—Philippines" prepared by global consulting firm Watson Wyatt Worldwide, revealed that the Honda Accord was the most frequent car make provided by companies to their top management, followed by the Nissan Cefiro and a Mercedes-Benz. Typical engine size is 2,000 cc.

Top management refers to the chief executive/country manager or general manager, the most senior executive in the organization managing the full range of functions.

The results were based on comprehensive information on car program provisions and policies of over 200 employers in the country.

Data included in the report were compiled from various compensation and benefits surveys conducted by Watson Wyatt Philippines Inc. throughout 2002.

The study showed that Honda Accord under

ACCORD/ C3

Luxury raised to a higher level.

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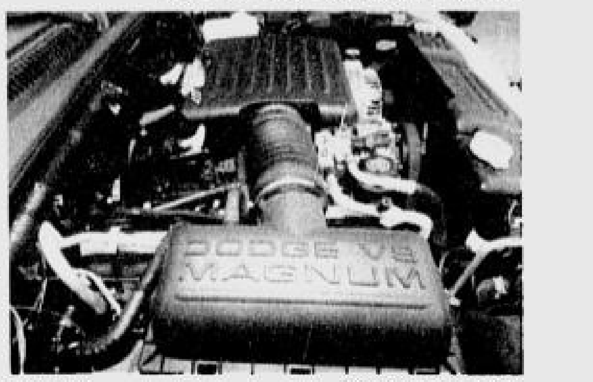
TOYOTA

SUV with size just right boasts power to the max

By Tessa R. Salazar



BUILT for power

PHOTOS BY ALEX LOINAZ

HOW do you know the SUV you're driving is too big for you? Try parking it end first. When you don't sweat, the SUV fits you.

And so, on that note, I would have to say the Dodge Durango 4x2, massive as it may seem, fits me, and the roads I drive on. Unlike other full-sized SUVs, the Dodge Durango is actually more maneuverable, as it is only about the size of the mid-sized vehicles such as the Trooper and slightly smaller than a Patrol. To give you a better idea, it's just slightly bigger than a Revo, CRV and Crosswind.

Size is the only compromise, though. The Dodge Durango lugs a monster 4.7L Magnum V8 for an engine, generating 235 horsepower, and a multispeed automatic transmission. Those who love to hear the V8 growl won't be disappointed with the engine, which some observe sounds like a Corvette.

You feel the power once you floor it; as the G forces immediately work on your body. Careful, though, when driving on wet surfaces: you wouldn't want to hydroplane on a P1.850-million Durango. Then again, the Durango features a "sway bar," which prevents the vehicle from fishtailing too much.

Comparing the power-to-weight ratio of the Dodge Durango with other full-sized SUVs, therefore, would be inaccurate.

This "macho" look of the Durango is typical of Chrysler. I would even dare say it's the best-looking vehicle in the market. But that's just my taste.

Precise, powerful

The tires ((255/65R16 all season tires) add to the sense of security, as they offer a surer grip on the road. Handling is commendable, as the steering system is precise. You could almost feel the beast reading your mind where exactly you want to go. And when you're not sure where...well, there's always the sway bar. Again, the sway bar adds sensitivity to the handling, preventing the vehicle's body from rolling.

Sensitivity, however, has its downsides. A sprint on the highway isn't a time to have sensitive steering. A slight twitch of the hand can throw you off course. Experienced drivers, especially racers, would know how to handle it better.

The Durango is built for power. The leaf spring suspension attests to this. And it also gives a hint on the young market this SUV is really built for. The Durango may be a bit of a harsh ride for the older set. In other words, the ride on a Durango doesn't have the same "boaty" effect as in full-sized SUVs.

A powerful engine requires powerful brakes as well. Thus, the Durango comes with four-wheel disc brakes.

Creature comforts

The tiniest details of creature comforts, however, were well thought of. Just to give you an example, it gives theater-style seating for eight passengers (or 10 depending on the passengers' butt size), or 88 cubic feet of cargo space (with a so-called 40/20/40 front split bench, which would accommodate up to three passengers in front to make eight-passenger seating possible). If you opt to keep the second row seat folded up, there's still 51 cubic feet of cargo space and room for three passengers.

The aircon has dual zone temperature controls. It has one temperature slide control for the front side, and one for the front and rear passengers.

It has front bucket seats with a center floor console with three jumbo cupholders for 32-ounce cups, a cell phone storage bin and power outlet.

Up there, just on top of the rear view mirrors, are computer-controlled indicators that tracks your trip, miles to empty, average fuel economy, directional gauge, and even the temperature.

True to its market, the Durango can be as loud as it wants to be. Its premium audio system features eight Infinity speakers.

Its 94.5-liter fuel tank has nylon fuel lines to help protect against corrosion and wear. The tank itself is situated securely ahead of the rear axle, between the frame rails.

Fuel consumption

Like any V8 engine, expect the Durango to be a gas-guzzler. The most economical I did was about 6 km/liter (manufacturer's fuel consumption rating is about 8 km/liter), even using a little measure of cruise control. We didn't get to make a long-distance trip for out-of-city driving.

Durango's overall length, width and height are 193.5 inches, 71.6 inches and 70.5 inches, respectively.

Verdict: The Durango rocks, but doesn't roll. If you want the macho look sans the road-hogging size, then write the P1.850-million check. Then start making friends with your nearest gas dealers. You'll be visiting them more often, anyway.

Louis Vuitton classic car show

LOUIS Vuitton will host anew its classic car show, one of the most important events in the international classic car calendar.

One of the highlights of this year's event will be the display of film legend Steve McQueen's Jaguar XKSS.

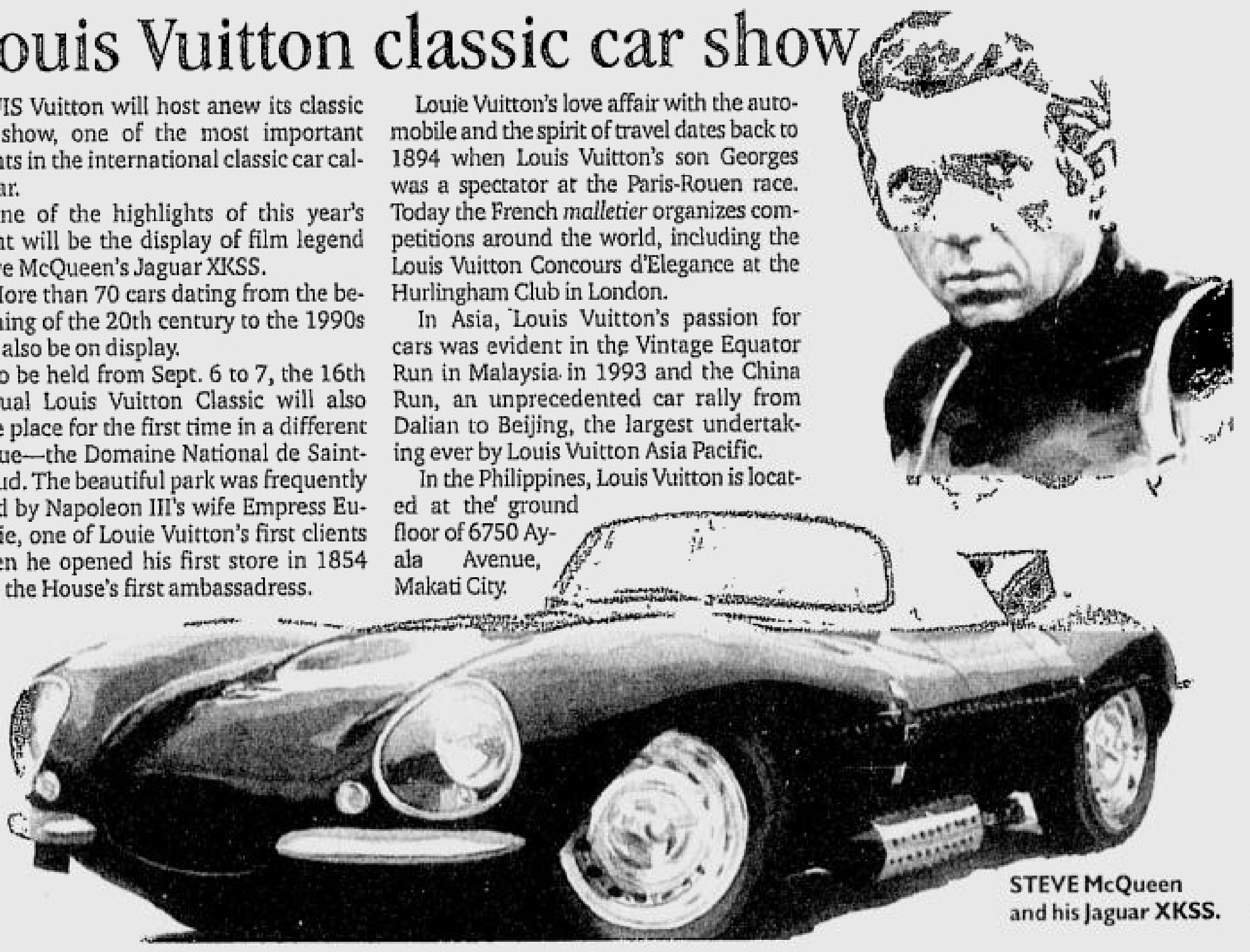
More than 70 cars dating from the beginning of the 20th century to the 1990s will also be on display.

To be held from Sept. 6 to 7, the 16th annual Louis Vuitton Classic will also take place for the first time in a different venue—the Domaine National de Saint-Cloud. The beautiful park was frequently used by Napoleon III's wife Empress Eugenie, one of Louie Vuitton's first clients when he opened his first store in 1854 and the House's first ambassadress.

Louie Vuitton's love affair with the automobile and the spirit of travel dates back to 1894 when Louis Vuitton's son Georges was a spectator at the Paris-Rouen race. Today the French *malletier* organizes competitions around the world, including the Louis Vuitton Concours d'Elegance at the Hurlingham Club in London.

In Asia, Louis Vuitton's passion for cars was evident in the Vintage Equator Run in Malaysia in 1993 and the China Run, an unprecedented car rally from Dalian to Beijing, the largest undertaking ever by Louis Vuitton Asia Pacific.

In the Philippines, Louis Vuitton is located at the ground floor of 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.



STEVE McQueen and his Jaguar XKSS.

A thriving racket at North Expressway?

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE NEW Honda Accord has been wowing car buffs and I can only agree. It's got class, it's got style, it's a cut above the rest.

I'm not good at exaggeration, really. But the new Accord is a masterpiece sedan. Its looks hide that power; it has a maximum speed of 240 kph that when you go 160 kph, it's as if you're merely starting to rev up the car.

Listen to the creators of the new Honda Accord: "This changes everything. It's a vehicle like no other; an Accord like no previous Accord. Its emotive styling hits at true sports performance. Its sheer dynamism exceeds all expectations. An advanced car truly in a class of its own, the Accord is an achievement in innovation with the power to change your perceptions."

What they have done is to simplify beauty.

* * *

There seems to be a racket going on at the North Diversion Road.

On the night of Aug. 2, Pangasinan-bound Dr. Fernando T. Lopez was driving his Starex van when a stone hurled from nowhere hit the back of his vehicle. It happened at the only traffic light of the Expressway crossing toward Dau.

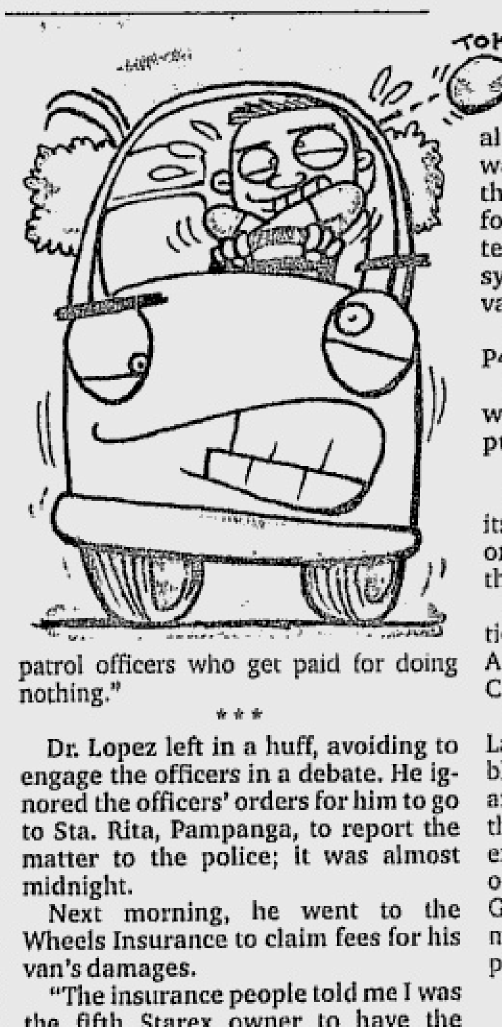
Dr. Lopez reported the matter to the PNCC offices at Sta. Ines exit.

* * *

"You are the third victim tonight," the patrol people at Sta. Ines told Dr. Lopez. "You are lucky you came out unscathed. One has died already as a result of the stoning there that happens regularly these days."

Upon hearing that, Dr. Lopez almost blew his top.

"They said that in a manner as though they are helpless against those shenanigans out there," said Dr. Lopez. "We pay toll and one reason for that is we get protection from the patrol cars of the Expressway. What we get instead are inept patrol officers who get paid for doing nothing."



* * *

Dr. Lopez left in a huff, avoiding to engage the officers in a debate. He ignored the officers' orders for him to go to Sta. Rita, Pampanga, to report the matter to the police; it was almost midnight.

Next morning, he went to the Wheels Insurance to claim fees for his van's damages.

"The insurance people told me I was the fifth Starex owner to have the same complaint from the North Expressway," said Dr. Lopez.

* * *

The North Diversion Road has been the scene of many accidents already, a number of them has claimed lives.

Dr. Lopez said he was told he was lucky he did not stop when the incident happened.

"They told me those who stopped were robbed," he said. "The more unfortunate souls, who tried to fight off the thieves, were killed."

* * *

Unless a change in plan materialized, the Land Transportation Office was to start implementing yesterday the collection of an additional P140 for the motor vehicle registration system and P56 for the driver's licensing system—not to mention a 10-percent valued added tax (VAT).

The old rate was P120 plus VAT, and P48 plus VAT for a driver's license.

The new rates were in accordance with new policies geared toward computerization of the LTO.

* * *

The Isuzu Philippine Corp. celebrated its 6th inaugural anniversary celebration on July 31 with the theme "Isuzu with the Community."

It observed the occasion in cooperation with the Laguna Lake Development Authority and Rotary Club of Sta. Rosa Centro.

The IPC donated one garbage truck to Laguna Lake in the Barangay Macabling/Barangay Tagapo, Sta. Rosa area and seeded 10,000 tilapia breeders into the lake. Of course, Kazuhiko Sho, IPC executive vice president, led Isuzu in the occasion accompanied by Ms Myrna Gonzales, IPC's assistant department manager for corporate affairs and IPC public relations manager Timmy Naval.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Don't go into a long drive with your tummy full. It will make you fall asleep while driving.

Helpful hints for driving through flooded areas

THE RAINY season brings out not only the worst among motorists on the road, but the most terrible condition of Metro Manila's major thoroughfares. After some drizzle or worse, just minutes of a heavy downpour, the roads become a virtual ocean that can paralyze the whole city. Drivers and their vehicles get trapped for hours on end, making them look like helpless vessels on floodwater.

The rains here cause dirt and oil buildup on the roads which can cause quite a problem for any vehicle and its engine. The floods, meanwhile, can damage certain parts and make driving very tricky and dangerous. This has been the scenario for the past and still coming weeks, so we need to be prepared for the wet weather.

Helping us get through this hazard is our engine's brake system. Prestone Brake Fluid, gives us the following do's and dont's when driving through floods:

- **Check the condition of your brakes more so during the rainy season.** With good tires and brakes you can greatly reduce the chances of an accident no matter how wet the roads are.

In wet weather, brakes get damp and lose their effectiveness, causing "brake fade" to set in. Keep them dry and ready for instant use by "pumping up" the brake pedal for several seconds and at regular intervals. The heat produced by the friction from the contact between discs/drum and brake pads will dry the brake lining.

- **In case you have no choice but to drive in potential flood-prone roads, do not drive through standing water.** The depth of water is not always obvious. Some portions of the road may be damaged under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.

The water can saturate your brakes and make it hard to stop. Sometimes, even if it's not deep, it could cause your wheels to turn slightly, which could easily lead to a spin at higher speeds. Hydroplaning occurs when standing water on a road surface is deeper than the tread depth of your tires, causing the tires to lose contact with the road. If this happens, do not apply the brakes. Ease back on the accelerator until contact between the tires and the road surface is restored. Hard braking can cause the loss of vehicle control.

Your car can experience some substantial damage after being assaulted by floodwaters, including your car's brake, engine, steering and transmission systems which are the most prone to flood-related problems. Brake components at each wheel can seize or rust later. As a result, any car damaged by floodwater should not be started until the car has been checked and cleaned by a qualified mechanic.

- **So watch the weather, listen to traffic reports, learn the high water areas during storms when you're out, and avoid them in the future.** If you do drive through deep water, use Prestone Brake Fluid to ensure that the vital components of your brake system are working efficiently.

ALL-NEW AURA NEXUS

A promising bike

A REVOLUTION in motion is taking the domestic motorbike market by storm. From the world's leading motorcycle manufacturer Kawasaki comes the all-new Aura Nexus. From its aerodynamic shell design, down to its revolutionary four-stroke, single cylinder, 112-cc engine, the Aura Nexus is poised to take on not just the racetracks, but the streets of the metropolis as well.

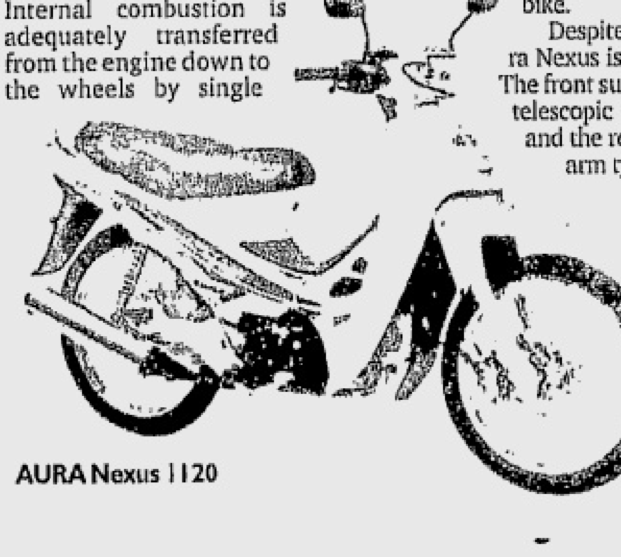
Backed by Kawasaki's experience and expertise acquired from years of professional racing, the Aura Nexus is the most potent 112 cc motorbike ever to be marketed in the Philippines. Bore and stroke is 53.0 x 50.6 mm. Internal combustion is adequately transferred from the engine down to the wheels by single Keihin Pb 18 x 1 carburetor.

Maximum horsepower is pegged at 8.7 ps at 8,000 rpm while maximum torque is measured at 0.83 kgf.m. at 3,000 rpm. Power transfer is assured by a wet multiplate-type clutch system and the Aura Nexus 4-speed constant gearshift system. This enables the rider to enjoy quick engine response and powerful acceleration.

The engine's throaty response is made possible by the racing exhaust pipe installed as stock in the all-new Aura Nexus. Stopping power is assured by two massive disc and drum brakes located at both the front and rear tire of this racing bike.

Despite its sporty features, the Aura Nexus is a comfortable bike to ride. The front suspension is equipped with a telescopic coil spring with stabilizers and the rear suspension with a swing arm type high per shock system.

The Aura Nexus is available in two dazzling three color schemes—yellow, silver and sky blue. For those who wish for a powerful, practical and innovative pocket rocket, the line forms on the right in all Kawasaki dealers nationwide.



AURA Nexus 1120

RANGER TREKKER 4X2

Outdoor rebel with a popular cause

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHILE THE SIEGE of Oakwood Premier two weeks ago left most people glued to the TV set, I was inside a Ford Ranger Trekker 4x2 2.5L manual transmission pickup driving from the south of Metro Manila and heading for Makati to pick up a colleague. Strange, the comfortable confines of the Trekker's interior made me numb to outside reality. I was heading for the heart of trouble, and yet there I was driving nonchalantly, the coup d'é tat farthest from my mind.

It was just now I remembered Edsa II, the last instance of a non-violent people's revolution that unseated a "Mr. Suave" president. At that time I was driving an old but time-tested Mitsubishi L-200 pickup carrying 14 people with me to the heart of the revolution at the Edsa Shrine in Ortigas.

MICHELLIN tires cut down road noise.

Hungry for passengers

Now I was driving a more powerful intercooled turbo diesel engine with 117 ps of horsepower and 280Nm of torque and a towing capacity of 900 kg. The beast seemed hungry for passengers. But, ironically, this time there were no hitchhikers, and I was by my lonesome.

Like the potential skill and intelligence of the rebel group, the Ranger Trekker is a dependable workhorse. If you're looking for efficiency and performance, both have it. If I could feel the seething anger of the rebel group in subsequent interviews over radio and TV, I could feel the same power clamoring for release under the hood of the Ranger. And when the rebels demanded immediate results, stepping on the gas, rather diesel pedal of the Ranger generated immediate acceleration. There was no delay.

The only difference here, perhaps, is that you don't have to lay siege on Oakwood just to get a Ranger Trekker. And unlike the impatient rebels, you won't be afraid of having the Trekker for company. You will love driving this to Baguio, Tagaytay or on any zigzagging road that requires power and precision driving.

From 2,000 rpm onward, you can feel the 12-valve engine just "go." Some drivers can get power all the way to 5,000 rpm, running like a gasoline-powered engine.

You will notice that when you just keep the pedal down, the Trekker just keeps going, which would mean the turbo is pushing it forward. You don't need to floor it all the time; the fuel rate injection is compensated for, as there is a compensator at the back of the injection pump that senses pressure and will adjust the mixture. That's why, one automotive expert I consulted with said, it feels like a gasoline engine. At cruising speeds, however, is when the turbo charger is at its most efficient.

The handling is apt. The gearshift, however, was a little stiff in my test unit. The gear oil, perhaps, was too viscous *(malapot)*.

Double-belted

The engine features double fan belts, a standard design our auto expert analyzed, because if you were probably out in the boondocks and armed only with one fan belt and it snapped, that would be the end of you.

The radiator is covered with aluminum, which is a good idea. Aluminum is most efficient in transferring heat. You have to be vigilant about its maintenance, though. Make sure you have sufficient amounts of coolant inside the radiator to be able to prevent galvanic corrosion. Once damaged, aluminum is difficult to repair.

Ford espouses one common look up front, as the Ranger's countenance looks similar to the Expedition's, even the Escape's. Like a signature design, it's probably Ford's "flavor" for its series.

The suspension in front is double wishbone, and leaf spring at the back. The entire suspension is handled by a torsion bar, which results overall in a better ride.

Workhorse

The Trekker, however, is designed primarily for work, not comfort. The torsion bar is there for loading purposes. Compared to the Nissan Frontier, which handles like a car, the Trekker is a no-nonsense workhorse—the kind of vehicle the younger set would love because they would want the feel of the road. The Trekker is more at home outdoors than anywhere else.

The ride is stiff. As one of the passengers commented later, "If your brains are not put in well, it would probably end up somewhere else."

Ford uses surprisingly quiet tires on the Trekker when running on asphalt. We observed the treads were designed in a way that they actually cut down road noise. The Michellin tires are 235/75 R15 BSW while the wheels measure 15" Alloy with chrome center cap.

To prove its true character as a workhorse, the Trekker has a load compensator. As you put on heavier loads, it adjusts the difference between the front and the rear brakes. It does this by way of adjusting the valves to give the brake system where there is more weight more stopping power.

It has a tow hitch mounting point and a strong bumper. The bumper will hold without being pulled out from its socket.

It has a solid thud on the doors. The steering wheel has four spokes, which some would find esthetically pleasing.

Safety features include dual air bags, limited slip differential and antilock brake system.

Verdict: Of course you know that if you want comfort, you get a car. This one-tonner is a glad beast of burden. For P790,000, you now have a dependable and unbelievably strong farm worker. Offer this to Trillanes et al., and they'd gladly go up the mountains.

SIDE view of the workhorse

PHOTOS BY ALEX LOINAZ

The Vios

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN you switch on the ignition of the Toyota Vios, the instrumentation cluster lights up and immediately catches your attention. Like the Toyota Echo's, the cluster is found at the top-center of the dashboard. But, unlike the Echo's, it is digital. The vacuum fluorescent display gauges appear to be set back at the end of a black cave in the middle of the dash.

The centrally located digital display is what makes the Vios' interior different from its more expensive twin, the Corolla Altis. It is a high-tech feature that would befit the futuristic-looking 2003 Honda City, the Vios' arch rival. Like the City, the Vios is a made-in-Thailand product that targets young Asians buying their first new car.

Fact is, the Vios is the 2003 reincarnation of the Soluna, Toyota's entry-level Asian compact car that never reached the Philippines. Renamed as Vios (pronounced "Vee-yos"), which is a derivative of the Latin verb "to move forward," it was launched at a big bash in Makati last May and is being aggressively advertised as the cool car for the X Generation with the endorsement of pop princess Britney Spears.

Enhanced with VVT-i

Like the funky Echo Verso, the top-of-the-line Vios is powered by Toyota's 1.5-liter 1NZ-FE twin cam, 16-valve, 4 cylinders-in-line engine enhanced with VVT-i (Variable Valve Timing-intelligent) technology and delivering max output of 107 Hp at 6,000 rpm. The 1.3-liter Vios, which comes with manual transmission only, has the same powerplant as the Echo hatchback: Toyota's 2NZ-FE twin cam, 4-inline VVT-i capable of 85 Hp/6,000 rpm.

By bringing in both the 1.5-liter and 1.3-liter models of the Vios, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMPC) upstaged the Honda City, which is currently sold here with a 1.3-liter engine only. TMPC is obviously targeting young males with the option of a more powerful engine in the Vios aside from Britney Spears' advertising allure. As of sales reports last month, more Vios than City units were sold in June.

Viewed from a distance, the Vios looks like a Corolla Altis clone. You get to notice the differences in the front grille, front spoiler, headlights and taillights only when you examine the twin cars close-up. While the exterior styling of the Vios may not be as eye-catching as the new Honda City, the Vios' aerodynamic design yields a low 0.30 coefficient of drag like the Lexus GS300, Toyota's luxury 6-cylinder sedan. This reduces wind noise and increases fuel economy.

Lighter than Altis

Driving the automatic transmission (A/T) Vios 1.5G on the traffic-free northbound Skyway at 160 km per hour confirmed that the Vios has less wind noise than taller cars, although I heard some rumbling under the car as soon as I hit 100 kph. Being 100 kg lighter than the Altis 1.6J M/T, which is the lowest-cost Corolla, the Vios 1.5G A/T can hold its own against the Corolla's 1.6-liter powerplant and stick shift, performance-wise and it is more fuel-efficient. The Vios 1.5G has strong brakes and smooth-as-silk automatic gearing, thanks to Toyota's Super ECT (Electronic Controlled Technology.)

The ride is comfy enough if a bit bouncy, perhaps because of the light curb weight or overinflated tires. The Vios's rear seatback is fixed and cannot be split or folded down 60:40 like the Corolla Altis's, much less split, stowed, folded down or folded up like the super-versatile City's. But the trunk capacity of the Vios is 400 liters, just like the Corolla's while the City's is 500 liters.

For a budget car, the Vios 1.5G A/T has quite a few luxe features aside from the digital cluster: an AM/FM radio with in-dash CD and cassette player (most car radios only have either CD or cassette, not both), chrome accents on the panel and A/T shift knob, front fog lamps, grip-type door outside handles, chrome rear license plate garnish, color-keyed mudguards.

Affordable

But unlike the Corolla Altis 1.6G and 1.6E, none of the Vios models is equipped with air bags and anti-lock braking system (ABS). Neither are these safety features available as options for the Vios as they are for the Honda City S. The trade-off for this is pricing. At P678,000, the top-of-the-line Vios, the 1.5G A/T, is P24,000 cheaper than the least expensive Corolla Altis 1.6J M/T (P702,000). The Vios 1.5G M/T costs P643,000 while the basic Vios, the 1.3E M/T, sells for P578,000.

So if you want Toyota reliability, durability and VVT-i technology in a car styled for the young—all for an affordable price—the Vios is for you.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Remember half of the people you know are below average.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

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DO big mufflers affect the horsepower and gas consumption of your car?

—Gary Carbon of Iloilo City

Yes, they do. But exactly what effect you get depends a great deal on the proper choice of a muffler and pipe. Theoretically, exhaust tuning should improve the efficiency of your engine, thus saving fuel. But a lot of motorists don't realize that if the wrong type of muffler and pipe is used, it can reduce power and increase fuel consumption. Just because it fits the space under the car doesn't mean that it will give the best performance and fuel economy.

If a motorist is going to replace the exhaust themselves then they must be careful to buy components which are compatible with the engine design. Either use original parts from a dealer, or, if you want something a bit cheaper then seek advice from a licensed exhaust repairer.

Sports mufflers have pipes larger in diameter than the original system. Choosing the diameter is a very important point. Too large pipes will diminish the results!

Hot gases are lighter and easier to move than gas that has had time to cool. A larger diameter gives you lower flow speed, thus more time spent within the system to cool down. It also gives you higher volume to move. All this put together will reduce cylinder load efficiency. So if the diameter of the pipe is increased too much, the flow would be adversely affected and power would be lost.

One last thing, the deep and throaty sound of a sports muffler may also urge you to press the pedal to the metal. In that case, should your fuel consumption increase, don't blame it on the tuned pipe but on the heaviness of your right foot!

Accord most frequent. . .

From page C1

the 1600 to 2000 engine size is also the most frequently bought car for senior managers from the nonsales and marketing size.

Honda Accord was followed by Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic.

For managers who choose between 1300 and 1600 cc cars, the Toyota Corolla was the most popular choice, followed by the Honda Civic and the Mitsubishi Lancer.

Supervisors and below who are eligible for a car with engine size of 1300 to 1600 cc, meanwhile, usually get a Nissan Sentra, followed by Honda City and Mitsubishi Lancer.

Expenditure, allocation

The Watson Wyatt study, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, showed that companies usually spend an average of P1.807 million for the car of CEOs/GMs.

For the nonsales and marketing group, the average allocation for the company car ranges from P622,200 for supervisors and below to P1.111 million for the senior management.

For the sales and marketing staff who are usually given the company cars because it is part of their work, i.e. medical representatives, prices range from P628,000 for supervisors and representatives to P1.119 million for senior management.

"Most companies typically purchase the vehicles outright since car dealers usually offer 10 to 20 percent discounts for cash purchases and companies are unwilling to pay for the interest cost in financing schemes. Companies are also given further discounts for fleet purchases," the study said.

Car programs

Of the companies in the Watson Wyatt database, 246 companies sponsored formal car programs. Some 78 percent provide company cars, 53 percent sponsor car loans and 19 percent maintain car plans where the cost of the car is shared by both the company and the employee.

Some 53 percent of the 246 companies with formal car programs offer only one type of program (either a company car, car loan, car plan or car allowance in lieu of a car), while 47 percent have at least two types of car programs in place.

The study showed that companies commonly sponsor car programs for top management (the CEO/country manager/general manager), senior management, middle management and direct sales supervisors and representatives.

Top management, senior management and sales employees, on the other hand, are typically offered company cars while middle managers and supervisors are usually given car plans or car loans.

Company cars are given outright while a car plan is an arrangement where the company shoulders a substantial portion of the cost of the car, typically up to a specified limit, while the employee pays the remainder.

Car loans, on the other hand, are often provided to qualified employees not yet eligible for a company car. In some cases, employees' equity may be loaned from the company (interest rates are usually below market level, ranging from 0 to 10 percent) and payable within four to five years.

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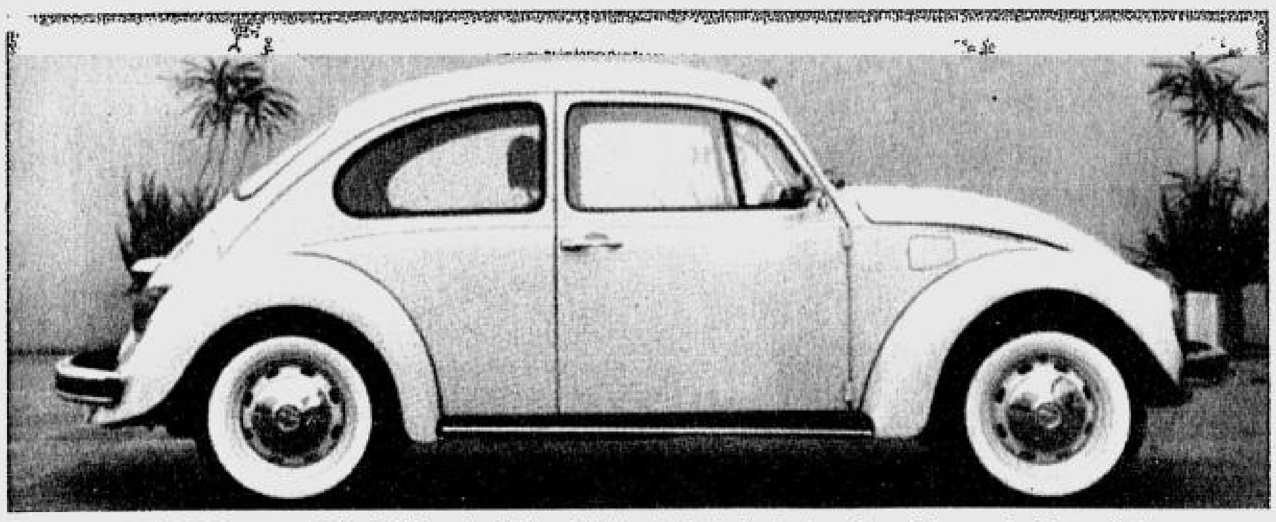
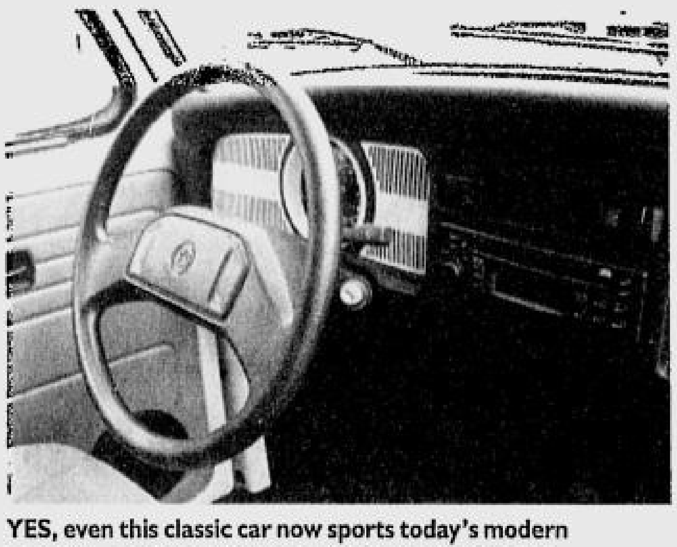

THE ENDEARING features of the VW Beetle Ultima Edicion include its body-colored rims and whitewall tires.

There was a mad scramble to get hold of the last batch of the classic VW Beetle


YES, even this classic car now sports today's modern amenity—a radio with CD player and four speakers.

Sorry, no more VW Beetles

By Charles E. Buban

GOING, going, gone. As one local importer of the classic Volkswagen Beetle found out recently, there was no more classic VW Beetle left in the Volkswagen factory in Puebla, Mexico, the last place on Earth where one can still buy this legendary car.

"There was a mad scramble to get hold of the last batch of the classic VW Beetle, called the *Ultima Edicion* (Spanish for 'Final Edition'), that a month before its scheduled roll off on July 30; all the 3,000 units produced already had an owner," laments Webin Dy Manzana, GM of Hancars Auto-Center, the country's only importer of brand-new classic Beetles.

But what saddened Manzana more was that of the 2,999 units (one went to a museum in Wolfsburg, Germany, home of VW headquarters) sold, not one went to the Philippines.

Too late

"It was too late that when one of my buyers decided to order one, my contact in Mexico informed me all their units were already reserved to their buyers from Western Europe, the United States, Mexico and Japan," Manzana reported.

Volkswagen produced 3,000 Ultimas that were sold at Mexican dealerships for $8,000 (about P850,000 here) compared to $6,500 for the version that stopped production last month.

"Our chance to have a piece of history in our hands is gone for good as the last Ultima Beetle left the factory on July 30," he reported.

Few minor changes

"The Ultima design stays faithful to the original model with a few minor changes, including chrome trim and mirror, body-colored rims, whitewall tires, a rear shelf, and a radio with a CD player and four speakers," described Manzana of the Ultima Beetle.

But basically, the Ultima still sports the 1.6-liter gasoline engine and a power output of 34 kW that its regular brethren has.

The Ultima is only available in two colors—Aquarius Blue and Harvest Moon beige.

Sad parting

The classic or even the Ultima Beetle may not be the most comfortable or the most sporty car ever made, but it has a large and loyal following that the car's demise is certain to bring a tear to many a fan's eye.

The car's popularity reached its zenith in the 1960s, with even the likes of John Lennon owning one, and Andy Warhol turning it into an icon of pop art.

"Most of my buyers were basically after history, the feeling of nostalgia that they get whenever they ride the Beetle," said Manzana.

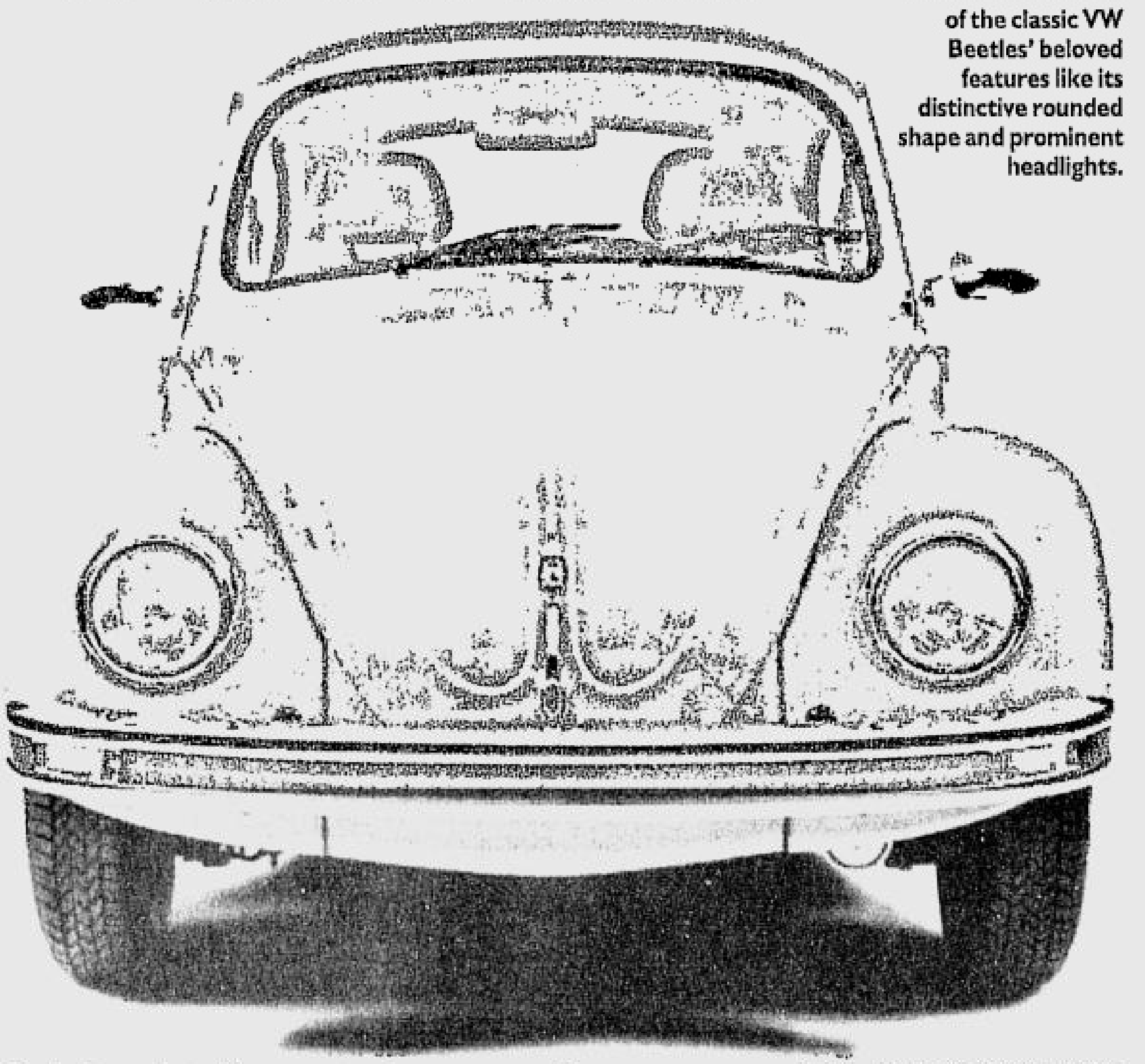
Loose ground

But as years went by, the Beetle, whose design never fundamentally changed began to lose ground to newer, faster and more competitive cars.

In 1974, VW switched production at its home factory in Wolfsburg to the new, sportier Golf and European assembly of the Beetle ceased altogether four years later.

VW's plants in South Africa, Brazil and Mexico continued building the classic Beetles, but the South Africa plant eventually closed in 1979, which was followed by Brazil plant that closed in 1986.

In 1996, Volkswagen de Mexico in Puebla became the last plant to produce the old Beetle and since 1998 the car has been sold only there.


THE ULTIMA Edicion retains most of the classic VW Beetles' beloved features like its distinctive rounded shape and prominent headlights.

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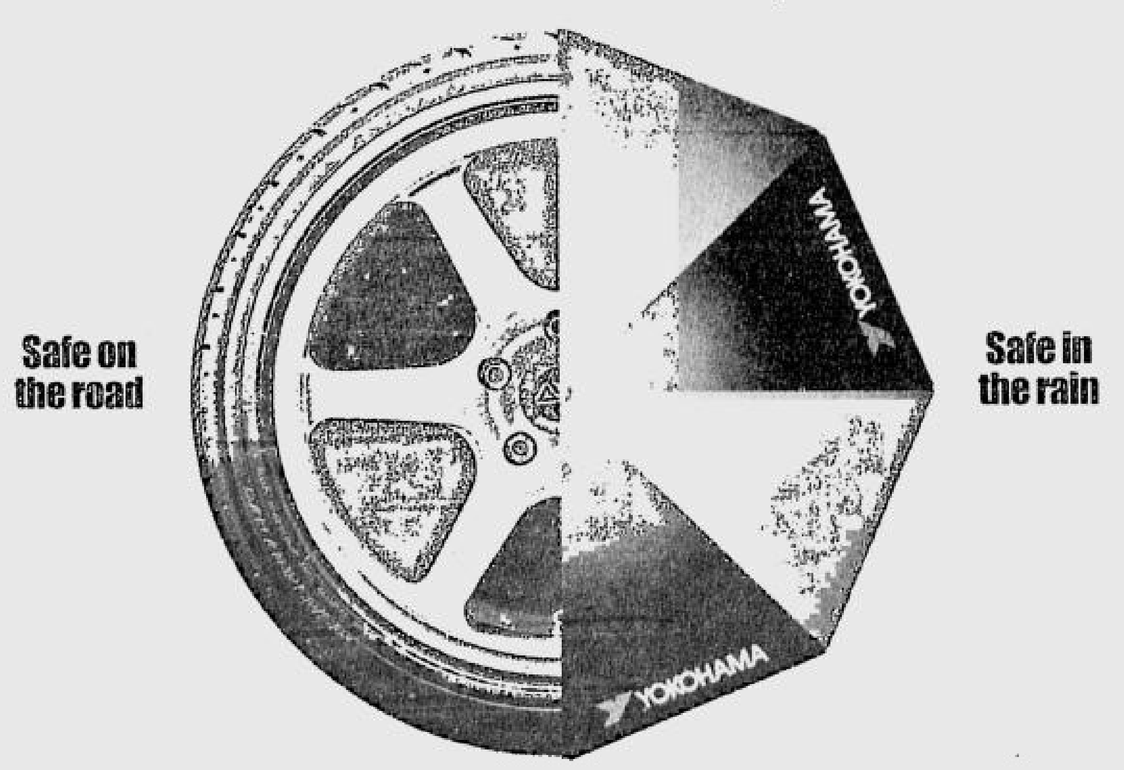
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Toyota opens new admin center on its 15th year

A NEW administrative services center building marked Toyota Motor Philippines 15th year of operations on Aug. 2. Located in its sprawling Sta. Rosa complex, the new center will be the new headquarters of the TMP after-sales unit as well as the other administrative departments.

The new admin services center is a major step toward Toyota's plan of developing its Sta. Rosa complex as the center of operations in the country. The Corolla and the Camry are currently both assembled at the Sta. Rosa plant. The plant will continue its expansion as well as its modernization in locally developing vehicle assembly operations and local parts manufacturing.

In his speech during the inauguration, TMP president Nobuharu Tabata emphasized the significance of the expansion. Said Tabata: "The new Toyota Administrative Services Center symbolizes Toyota's commitment to invest further and generate continuous employment to the Filipinos. I would like to assure you that Toyota is here to stay in the years to come."

In the last 15 years, the Philippine automotive market has recognized Toyota as the No. 1 auto company.

Auto journal from Japanese vehicle manufacturers

JAPAN Automobile Manufacturers Association Inc. will release a new English language publication titled Hand-in-Hand Auto Industry Partnership between Asean and Japan.

The 16-page publication provides comprehensive information on past and present activities of Japanese automakers and their subsidiaries in building partnerships with local manufacturers in the Asean region.

Hiroyuki Nakamura, Jama's Singapore office chief representative said the publication provides detailed record of the Japanese automobile industry's past role in the development of the Asean auto industry.

Federal introduces tires for RP roads

FEDERAL Tyres recently introduced its line of tires for passenger cars that it claims can withstand the country's weather conditions, and efficiently breeze through rough terrain, potholes and slippery roads.

Exclusive distributor Private Products Corp. said Federal has a 50-year track record of durability on the road. It has been tested by regular drivers and racers all over the world. The distributor claims that the quality is at par with the leading tire brands, as certified by the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Japanese Imperial Standards and the Deutsche Institute Normung.

It has developed the so-called Total Tire Technology Integration concept, a revolutionary approach to manufacturing tires that allows for effective belt tension control, increase of bead durability, and increase of traction on dry roads and better water dispersion capability on wet road through its unique tread patterns.

PGA Cars BMW holds BMW XPO 2003

PGA CARS BMW held its first BMW XPO 2003 at the newly renovated showroom located at 201 Edsa, Mandaluyong City from July 17 to 20.

It offered special financing deals at 15 percent low down payment, test drive of the latest BMW units and a raffle for two to Munich, home of BMW.

A wide selection of authentic parts, accessories and lifestyle items were put on display. BMW president Mark Gilbert graced the event. PGA chair Robert Coyluto Jr. headed the fun drive from Petron SLEX back to PGA Cars showroom with 100 car enthusiasts from various clubs.

SUZUKI BRAVO FOR QUEZON CITY
Suzuki Philippines Inc., through its dealer Prince Motor Corp., recently turned over to the Quezon City government 150 units of the Suzuki Bravo utility vehicles for distribution to all of its barangays. Suzuki Phils. VP Satoshi Hakamata hands over the Bravo's symbolic key to Mayor Sonny R. Belmonte.

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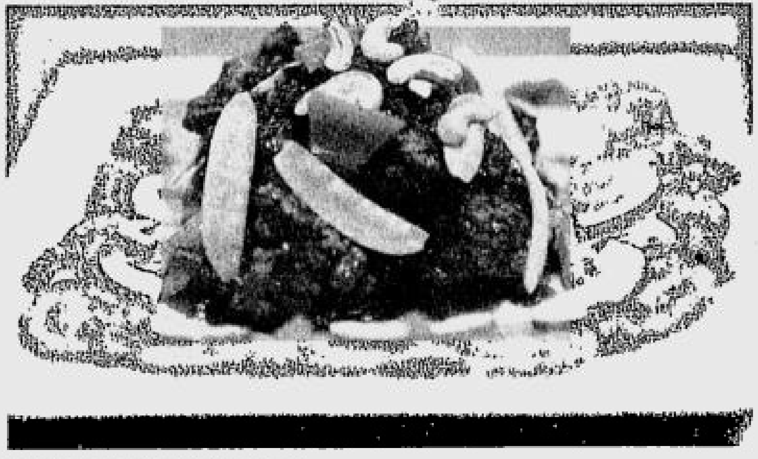
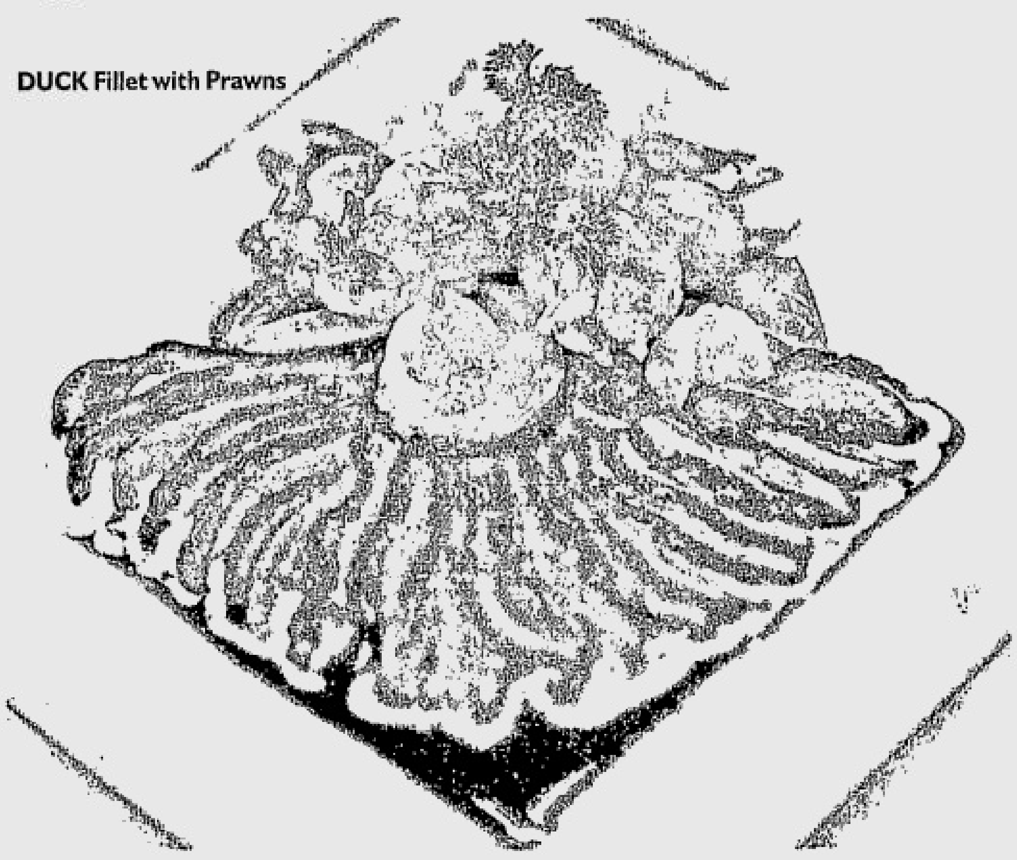

SHANTUNG Spicy Chicken


DUCK Fillet with Prawns

ICY Hot Banana

Like heaven on earth

Chinese food is making a comeback, and the Good Earth Tea Room is at the forefront of this trend

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SOMETHING of a revived interest in Chinese food appears to be taking place. At one time, Chinese was the only Asian cuisine familiar to Filipinos. Then along came Japanese, Thai and Vietnamese cooking. Chinese seemed to be old hat.

But now, a combination of various authentic ingredients and techniques has put Chinese cuisine back in the limelight, particularly at Good Earth Tea Room, which is located at 2/L, Greenbelt 3, Makati (tels. 757-4561 to 62) and The Fort, Taguig.

"Good Earth does not offer a typical Chinese menu. While its dishes are made of traditional Chinese ingredients, each menu item represents a fusion of culinary influences," says Sonja Ocampo, one of the nine owners of Good Earth in Makati.

Although fusion cuisine has its critics, a seasoned chef like Henry Cheung and his partners remain enthusiastic.

"We're constantly searching for new, exciting ingredients to work with. Chef Henry (Cheung) never fails to come up with delightful presentations. He plays with height, texture and color," says Ria Castrillo, another owner.

OWNERS Ria Castrillo, chef Henry Cheung and Sonja Ocampo

LILY on the Pond

DUCKQUITOS

Surprising dishes

Rather than shock, Cheung and his young partners surprise diners with dishes such as Duckquitos, Lily on the Pond, Crispy Chicken Pao, Chicken Chow Mein, Shantung Spicy Chicken, Spareribs with Mandarin Orange Sauce, Duck Fillet with Prawns, and Garupa in Sweet and Sour Sauce, and desserts like Icy Hot Banana and Coco Grass.

According to Ocampo, most of the dishes are Cheung's version of the food served at Good Earth London. "Chef Henry often experiments. But before the restaurant comes up with new meals, we do food tasting. And we always approve what he concocts."

Resurrected resto

The first Good Earth restaurants opened in London and Hong Kong, which are managed by Cheung's brother and uncle, respectively. These two outlets serve mainly dim sum and noodles.

In the Philippines, Cheung opened an outlet at Magallanes Commercial Center in 1994; Greenhills, 1998; and Malate, 1999.

Unfortunately, the Magallanes branch was demolished when a bigger commercial structure was put up, while the Malate outlet was gutted by fire.

After a few years, Ocampo's father broached the idea of opening Good Earth again to Cheung.

"They talked about it while playing golf," Sonja says. "And this happened while I was taking up culinary studies at Peter Kumps Culinary School in New York."

Last October, Cheung reestablished Good Earth at Greenbelt, Makati, with new, young partners.

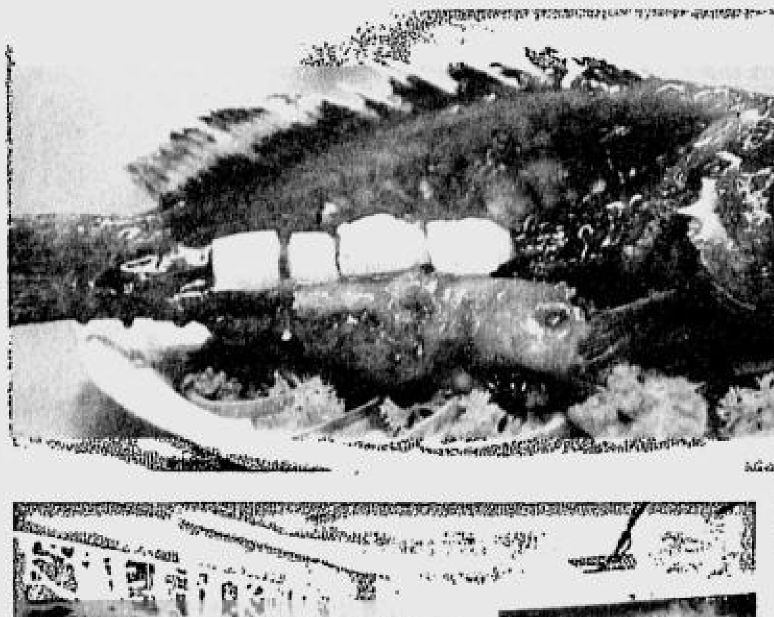
Aside from Ocampo and Castrillo, his other partners are Kathy Teves, Marge Marasigan, Ginger Ignacio, Vanessa Morales, Tracy Ampil and Luigi Villanueva, who designed the "earthy and modern" interiors of Good Earth.

Starting this month, the restaurant will promote traditional Chinese fruits or ingredients like black beans, mushrooms, hoisin sauce, lychee, and Chinese mustard in new dishes.

"Every month, a new dessert or appetizer will have peach as main ingredient, for instance. Or noodles the following month," Ocampo says.

Good Earth is open daily, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6-11 p.m.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph


GARUPA in Sweet and Sour Sauce

LUIGI Villanueva designed the earthy and modern interiors of Good Earth in Greenbelt, Makati.

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A few of my favorite things

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

PEOPLE ask me about places to go, what wine I like, the best food magazines etc... So I decided to make this list.

My favorites

Chefs and restaurants—Chefs Cyrille Soenen, Prince Albert at the Intercon (his food is always excellent!); J Gamboa, Cirkulo (this guy always has something new and exciting); Fernando Aracama, Uva (always loved his food!); Henry, Good Earth (Chinese fusion is Henry!); Norbert Gandler, Tivoli at the Mandarin (not only is he a great chef but a wonderful mentor to aspiring young chefs); and Quito Jose, Brothers Burgers (when it comes to comfort sandwiches and cookies, Quito is tops).

Cookies—Chocolate Chip cookies from Brothers Burgers (it's like eating cookie dough!); Chessmen (butter cookies) by Pepperidge Farms, Rustan's (but always out of stock!).

Burger—Angus rib-eye, Brother's Burgers

Canned soup—Progresso Classics, Rustan's

Wine—Stone Cellars, tel. 8972026 (Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Shiraz excellent and, the best part, rather cheap).

Exotic flowers—for your centerpieces or for your home, Insular Botanicals, 042-5407822; and Puentespina, 9299306

Food magazines—Vogue Travel and Entertaining, and Donna Hay, Emerald Headway Distributors Inc., tel. 6474744. Sorry, Emerald is owned by my sister Cristy and her best friend (and mine, too) Miriam but it happens to be the sole carrier of the titles.

Fresh corned beef and smoked bacon—Inday Teresa's, 0917-8108483

Coffee—Luigi Lavazza, Bacchus International, 8921744/6373613-14

Godiva—crème brulee; tofu and *taho*—available only in Cebu at Banri Restaurant, Chef Tirasawa, 0916-6635296

Carinderia—Dannylicious, Rajah Matanda corner Katipunan.

Japanese restaurant—Furusato, Roxas Boulevard

Suman sa Latik—Still Tita Paring's (always terribly comforting).

Current cravings—Good Earth's Duck with Taro, Fidel's Couscous with Merguez sausage, Chef Fernando Aracama's Chocnut Ice Cream, Uva, Greenbelt3.

Grapevine—This is a place that I've been hearing much about, The New China Club, ground floor, E-Square Mall, Ortigas Avenue, San Juan.

CHEFS J Gamboa and Fernando Aracama

I was hoping you could help me find some truffle oil. My mom and I have been searching for it in specialty shops around the metro to no avail.

SHANE MEDRANA

I've always believed in knowing the ingredient before using it. Here's a brief on truffle oil and where you can buy it.

Truffle oil is made by soaking truffles in olive oil to infuse the flavor. People say it is better to use the oil then fresh truffles, as it lasts indefinitely and costs much less. I am still trying to figure out if this is true or not. Maybe in some dishes, but personally, I think nothing can compare to fresh truffles.

Truffle oil has many uses. It can be dribbled over soups and salads, with pasta, over cheese, with eggs, bread and even with desserts.

Truffle oil is available at Terry's Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati, 7297906 and Gourmand, 8454909 and 8438768.

Where can I get buttermilk in Metro Manila?

OWEN SANTOS

Old-fashioned buttermilk is what remains after butter is churned. Excellent buttermilk contains tiny bits of sweet, creamy butter that did not rise to the surface. Today, most buttermilks are made by adding lactic acid bacteria. This is called cultured buttermilk.

Taste-wise, buttermilk will make you think of yogurt. The texture is quite creamy and, because it is tangy, it becomes an excellent addition to biscuits, pancakes, marinades, salad dressings, etc. The acid in buttermilk prevents discoloration in certain ingredients such as blue and blackberries and some nuts. It also improves the texture and helps in the browning of baked goods and tenderizing of meat, particularly poultry (when used as marinade for fried chicken), making the chicken tender and juicy.

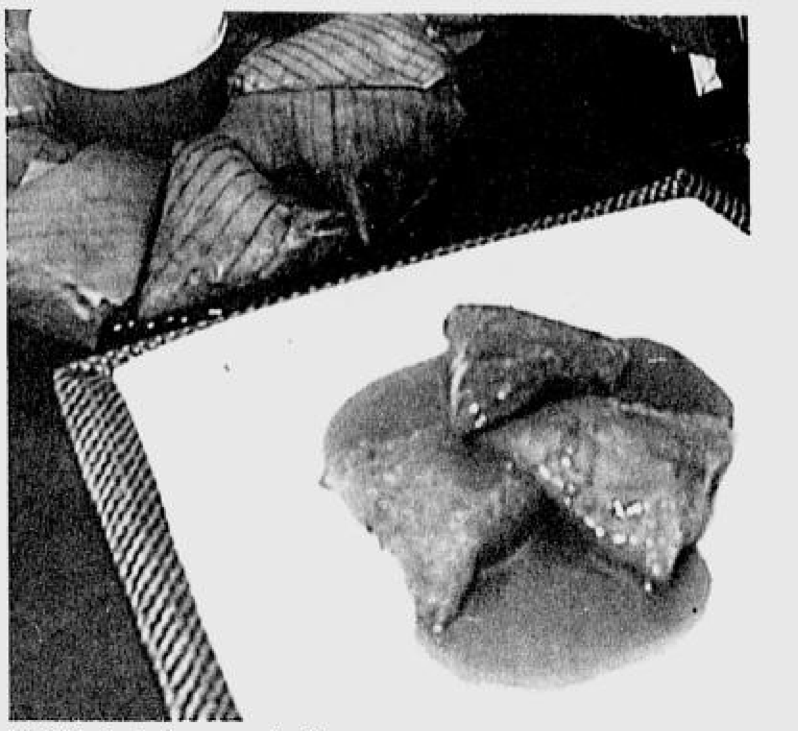
So where do you get buttermilk? Your guess is as good as mine. I've only seen the powdered form so far, which I find inferior. A very comfortable substitute for me is sour cream or natural yogurt, one is to one. Works well each and every time.

If anyone has seen the real thing lurking somewhere in the metropolis, let me know! Sorry, unlike Al-ghozi, there will be no reward for information given.

I would like to request your recipe for delicious, tender, juicy fried chicken.

EDDIE PINEDA

I love my fried chicken recipe—easy, delicious, foolproof, keeps well (you can steam the chicken, keep it refrigerated and fry only when needed) and no marinating time. After cooking this, you'll wish that chickens are nothing but just skin. Sounds like a dream? Well, it is! Enjoy this Eddie!



TITA Paring's Suman sa Latik

Reggie's Fried Chicken

1 whole chicken
2 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
cornstarch

Rub chicken with salt and pepper. Dredge the whole chicken evenly in cornstarch. Steam for 30 minutes. Let dry on a rack for at least 20 minutes. Deep fry in very hot oil (350-375°F) or better yet, in pork lard until golden brown. Serve with anything and everything. I like mine with Jufran, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce and Tabasco, or the Thai Sweet Chili Sauce for chicken.

TJ update

I've been getting a deluge of letters asking me about TJ, some hilarious, some desperate, some hopeful and a lot, "sour grapes."

So to all you liberated, strong-willed, highly-opinionated, financially independent, career-oriented women whose only dream in life is to find a truly sweet, gentle and sensitive man: TJ is happily married six years and still at it! *Hay naku*, they do exist! Whether he has brothers remains an unanswered question.

Apologies to those who have enrolled in my cooking classes. The air-conditioner of Rustan's Shangri-La has been down since two Mondays ago. I hope they get it fixed soon. With a little luck, Friday classes will push through.

Shortcuts to success

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

ONE of the ironies of being a culinary instructor is that I find myself buying dinner from a nearby food establishment.

On certain days when everybody is really tired after a cooking class, we end up opening a can of sardines, corned beef or Spam.

Yes, dear readers, we may have a lot of recipes up our sleeves, but the irony of it all is that the nearby food establishments and the well-stocked kitchen pantry are our best friends on hectic days.

Here we have shortcuts on the rescue: store-bought *inihaw na liempo* given a new look by transforming it into a tasty *sinigang*, a crema de fruta transformed almost from scratch and a store-bought *lechon manok* with homemade orange sauce.

These are just some of the recipes my staff and I have learned to love and treasure on days when we have to produce something from our kitchen. May these recipes come in handy on days when shortcuts are in order. From my kitchen to yours.

Sinigang in a Hurry

5 c water
1 onion, sliced
2 tomatoes, sliced
1 *inihaw na liempo*, chopped into serving portions
6 pcs okra, sliced diagonally
2 c kangkong, leaves and stalks separated
2 pcs eggplant, sliced diagonally
1 pack instant *sinigang sa sampaloc* mix *na may tunay na gabi*

Boil the water together with the onions and tomatoes in a large stockpot. Add the *liempo*, the okra and the kangkong stalks. Allow to boil until the vegetables are tender. Add the eggplant and the kangkong leaves. Allow to boil again and continue to cook for 5 minutes. Stir in the *sinigang* mix and continue to cook for at least 5 minutes more to allow the soup to thicken.

Shortcut Crema de Fruta

1 can *broas* (lady fingers)
Cream Filling:
½ bar cream cheese
2 tbsp orange liqueur
or 1 tbsp orange extract
¼ c sifted powdered sugar
1 ½ c all-purpose cream, well chilled
1 can peaches in syrup, well drained and peaches sliced thinly
Gelatin Layer:
1 tbsp unflavored gelatin
1 ¼ c syrup from canned peaches

To prepare the cream filling, in a medium mixing bowl combine the cream cheese, orange liqueur and the powdered sugar. Using an electric mixer at medium speed, beat until smooth and fluffy. Pour in the chilled cream and continue to beat at medium speed until it doubles in volume. Keep chilled.

Drain the canned peaches. Reserve the syrup for the gelatin mixture. Slice the peaches thinly. Set aside.

Line the bottom of an 8 by 12 inches rectangular glass dish with broas. Spread half of the cream filling over the layer of broas. Arrange the peaches over the filling. Top with another layer of broas. Pour the remaining cream over the broas and spread from end to end. Arrange the remaining peaches over the cream. Keep refrigerated while waiting for the gelatin to thicken.

In a small saucepan, combine the gelatin and the reserved syrup. Add water to the syrup if needed. Mix well and let stand for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, place the saucepan over low heat and allow the gelatin to melt without boiling. Set aside in the refrigerator until the gelatin resembles the consistency of unbeaten egg whites.

Using a spoon, gradually pour the gelatin over the assembled dessert. Chill overnight to firm up.

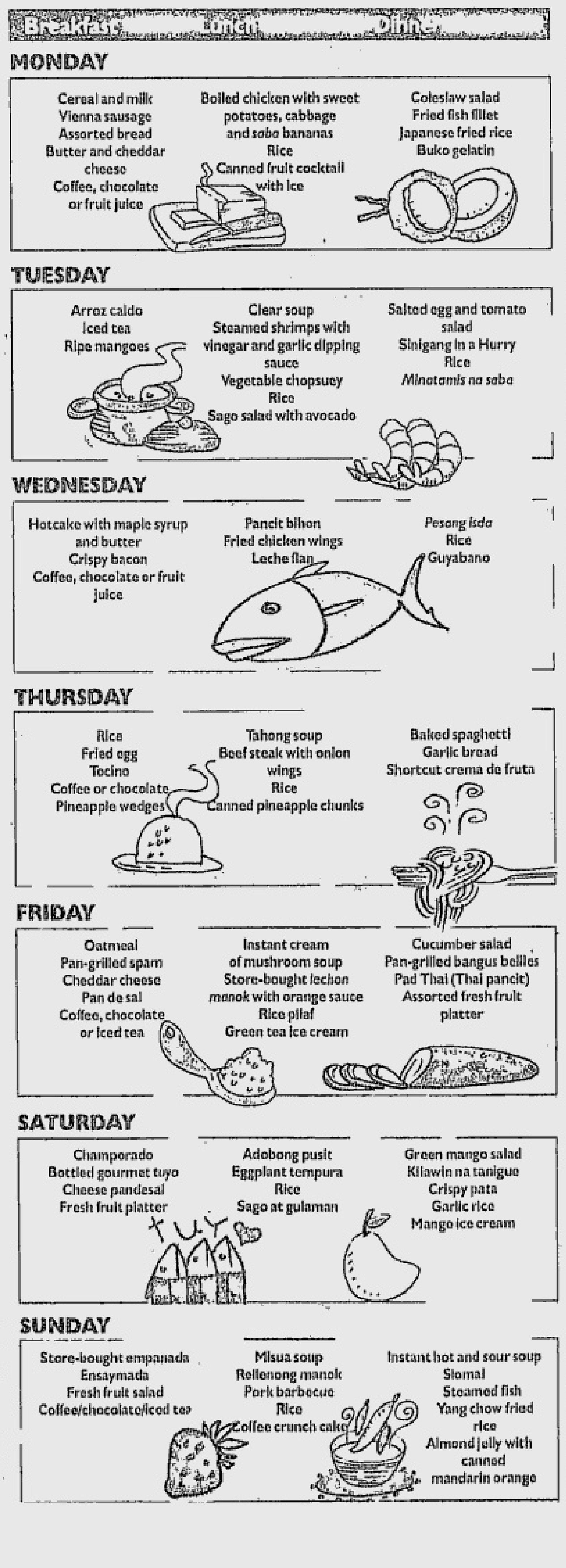
Store-bought Lechon Manok with Orange Sauce

1 *lechon manok*
Orange Sauce:
¼ c orange marmalade
2 tbsp regular soy sauce
¼ c freshly squeezed orange juice
1 tbsp grated orange rind
2 tbsp white sugar
Garnishing:
2 pcs fresh orange, sliced into wedges
bottled maraschino cherries
parsley

To prepare the sauce, combine the ingredients in a saucepan. Place over low heat and allow to boil until somewhat syrupy. As an option, you may add 2 tsp of cornstarch to thicken the mixture at a faster rate.

Arrange the chicken in a serving platter. Garnish with wedges of fresh orange, maraschino cherries and sprigs of parsley. Serve the sauce separately in a gravy boat.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City. Call 7217735.



	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Cereal and milk Vienna sausage Assorted bread Butter and cheddar cheese Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice	Boiled chicken with sweet potatoes, cabbage and *saba* bananas Rice Canned fruit cocktail with ice	Coleslaw salad Fried fish fillet Japanese fried rice Buko gelatin
TUESDAY	Arroz caldo Iced tea Ripe mangoes	Clear soup Steamed shrimps with vinegar and garlic dipping sauce Vegetable chopsuey Rice Sago salad with avocado	Salted egg and tomato salad Sinigang in a Hurry Rice *Minatamis na saba*
WEDNESDAY	Hotcake with maple syrup and butter Crispy bacon Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice	Pancit bihon Fried chicken wings Leche flan	*Pesang isda* Rice Guyabano
THURSDAY	Rice Fried egg Tocino Coffee or chocolate Pineapple wedges	Tahong soup Beef steak with onion wings Rice Canned pineapple chunks	Baked spaghetti Garlic bread Shortcut crema de fruta
FRIDAY	Oatmeal Pan-grilled spam Cheddar cheese Pan de sal Coffee, chocolate or iced tea	Instant cream of mushroom soup Store-bought *lechon manok* with orange sauce Rice pilaf Green tea ice cream	Cucumber salad Pan-grilled bangus bellies Pad Thai (Thai pancit) Assorted fresh fruit platter
SATURDAY	Champorado Bottled gourmet tuyo Cheese pandesal Fresh fruit platter	Adobong pusit Eggplant tempura Rice Sago at gulaman	Green mango salad Kilawin na tanigue Crispy pata Garlic rice Mango ice cream
SUNDAY	Store-bought empanada Ensaymada Fresh fruit salad Coffee/chocolate/iced tea	Misua soup Rellenong manok Pork barbecue Rice Coffee crunch cake	Instant hot and sour soup Siomai Steamed fish Yang chow fried rice Almond jelly with canned mandarin orange

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

Reggie Aspiras' classes in August

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts cooking class schedules are as follows:

Aug. 8: Reggie's Ultimate Roasting Collection—Beef Roast with bone marrow "bulalo" sauce served with Cappuccino Oyster Rockefeller Soup, Roast Chicken with maple ginger glaze with chorizo and homemade corn bread stuffing, Honey Roasted Lamb served with curried vegetable couscous, fruit chutney, cilantro, yogurt and Arugula Salad, Roast Duck with chestnut stuffing and delicious plum sauce served with crispy duck confit and blue cheese salad, Maple Turkey with mustard gravy served with apple risotto. Special class P2,500 + ingredients

Aug. 11: Gourmet Bagoong-Grilled Tiger Prawns with caramelized ginger, tomato and *bagoong* jam. Binagoongang Baboy and leek risotto, Inihaw na Baboy with shallots and *bagoong* compote and *sinangag sa bagoong*, Pork Barbeque in *bagoong* marinade with garlic rice and fried garlic and *bagoong* crisps.

Aug. 13 (morning class): Gourmet Pata—Crispy Pata done my way with mixed relishes and dipping sauces, Thai-style Pata with red sauce, Thai sausages and eggs, Hong Kong-style Pork Stew, Gourmet Pata Tim with pork *asado* and Chinese sausages, Reggie's Paksiw na Pata with banana blossom salad.

Afternoon class: Twisted Paellas—Orzo (pasta), Paella with aioli, pollo borracha (drunken chicken paella), Slipper Tail and Prawn Black Paella with garlic and spring onion oil, Thai-style Mixed Seafood Paella, Char Grilled Vegetable Paella with tomato relish, Black Paella with crisp fish in pepper sauce.

Aug. 15: Pasta 101—Carbonara, Vongole, Marinara, Bolognese, Primavera, Putanesca, Salmon and Caviar.

Aug. 18: Gourmet Hot Pot/Shabu-Shabu—beef, chicken pork, lamb, fish, vegetables. Shabu-Shabu and hot pot marinades. Dipping sauces and relishes.

Aug. 20 (morning class): Caramel Crunch Cake, Almond and Walnut Sans Rival, Prune Cake, Banoffee Pie, Apple Pie with butterscotch sauce.

Afternoon class: Gourmet Stuffed Lechon Manok—Adobo Rice-stuffed Lechon Manok, Achuete and Citrus-basted Lechon Manok with paella stuffing, Binawang na Manok Roast with *quesong puti* and ricotta stuffing, Salt-and-Pepper Lechon Manok with mixed banana stuffing, Lechong Manok with *dayap* mayonnaise stuffing.

Aug. 22: Salmon, Sea Bass and Crabs—Asian-style Salmon with honey Wasabi sauce, Salmon with truffles and shrimp mousse sauce, Miso Sea Bass with butter sauce, Grilled Sea Bass with mixed mushroom medley, Crabs with caviar sauce, Steamed Crabs with two dipping sauces—citrus butter and herbed garlic butter.

Monday and Friday classes start at 9 a.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (morning class) and 1:30-4:30 p.m. (afternoon class). Call 928-9296, 927-3008 or 633-5162 (look for Cynthia).

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is located at the 3/F, Bon Appetit, Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong.

Cross-country culinary courses

EXPLORE the gastronomic delights of Asia and Europe with culinary courses at The Maya Kitchen Culinary Center this August.

August 9, 9 am–1 pm

Japanese cooking. Learn to make Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi, assorted Sushi, Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri.

Same day, 1:30–5 p.m.

Pasta and Rice Cooking course. Create flavorful Italian dishes like Lasagna with seafood and tomato sauce, Ravioli with spinach and ricotta cheese tomato sauce, Cannelloni—rolled pasta with ground meats with bechamel sauce, Tortellini—cardinal hat- shaped pasta filled with mushroom and beef sauce, Risotto and Seafood Paella.

Visit the Maya Kitchen at eighth floor, Liberty Building, Pasay Road, Makati City. Call 892-1185 or 892-5011 local 108. E-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph

Retiree loses bank savings

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

PDI reader L. Galang is seeking help in compelling officials of a bank to return the money invested by her blind sister, 70-year-old T. Luntok. The latter invested her retirement benefits in the bank in 1999. Early this year, however, Luntok discovered that money was missing from her account.

Moreover, she discovered that a mysterious deposit (over P683,000 that did not belong to her) was made to her ATM account but withdrawn the same day. What was worse was the discovery that the bank employee who handled her accounts was no longer connected with the bank. Among other things, the employee replenished the funds in Luntok's ATM account when it was depleted, taking the amount from another account she had with the same bank.

Galang wrote the bank in February, submitting the required special power of attorney allowing her to handle matters in behalf of her sister. She also met with the bank officials to complain about the missing funds and the unauthorized transactions. The last time she heard from the bank was June 4.

Galang wrote, "The employee has flown the coop, and the bank now seems reluctant to answer for its employee's misdeeds. She has lost the rest of her retirement pay, a victim evidently of a manipulative bank employée." She asked, "How was the bank employee able to manipulate my sister's account without the bank becoming aware of it? And how was the employee able to get clearance from the bank at the end of her employment?"

(We interviewed the bank manager who obviously washed her hands of the matter by telling us that the case is now with the bank's audit department at the head office in Makati.)

Here is what Luntok and other people with complaints against banks can do. Send complaints to Deputy Governor Alberto V. Reyes, Jr., Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Vito Cruz, Manila. Copy-furnish Director Fe M. de la Cruz, BSP Corporate Affairs Office.

Heartless creditors

Can a credit card company make a bank withhold the funds of a depositor pending settlement of the depositor's unpaid bills? Isn't the bank supposed to inform its depositor before freezing an account?

These questions were raised by a PDI reader whose savings at BPI Family Bank were "put on hold" because of an unpaid BPI credit card bill. The reader wrote: "Closure of the company I worked for the last 20 years had forced me to sell whatever personal assets I could. I managed to remit some amounts to the credit card companies, but interests and penalties, plus interests on penalties, continued to mount."

Last April, the reader wrote the BPI Card Company pleading for time to rebuild her depleted resources and to settle her dues. All she got in return were computer-generated replies demanding payment. Recently, she found out that her Express Teller account was put on hold. She wrote the bank manager asking for an explanation and the release of her deposit. She was told that the bank received electronic instructions from the card corporation to hold her funds "pending settlement of credit card obligation."

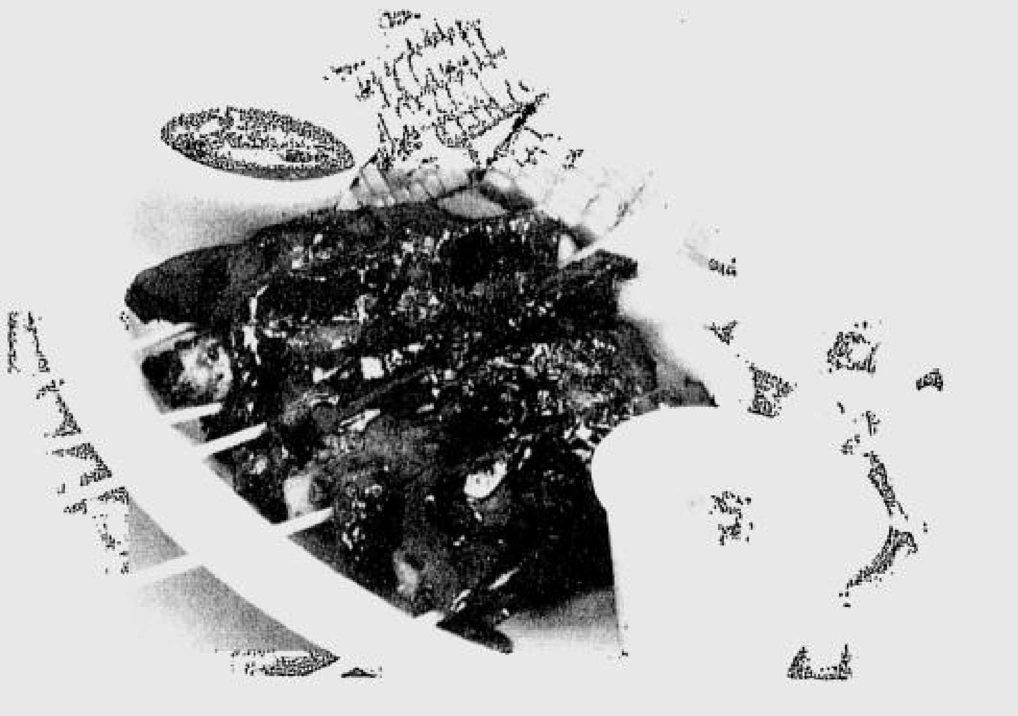
"I hope my voice gives courage to many more who are in a similar bind to speak up. I hope this voice reaches the attention of those who can do something to correct the abusive behavior of heartless banks and credit card companies."

Exorbitant interest

Please, please, read the conditions of credit card companies before signing up for a credit card. Here's the experience of an AIG credit card holder. "Last May, I paid P18,000 to settle my bill but left a balance of P927 thinking that even with the 3.5 percent interest on the balance, it would still be manageable. I was wrong. The interest was 70 percent. In June, my bill reflected an additional P686.32 (or 70 percent) for finance charges. I complained to the bank that nobody told me about the company policy. When I asked the bank to reverse the charges, I was told to pay the total bill first (before) they would consider my request."

Abusive credit collectors

There ought to be a law against abusive credit collectors who violate human rights and lack good manners and right conduct. R. Contreras wrote: "I admit I was remiss in settling my dues, but does it give collectors the right to (insult) me and my family? Here's what the agent told my mother on the phone: *'Maliit lang na halaga, di mo kayang tulungan ang anak mo!'* When he found out my mother was a teacher, he said: 'Teacher *ka lang pala*.' Not content with that, he sent me a text (message) saying: 'Blessed are those who are not delinquent members. For they will not be blacklisted for life. If you are a responsible card member, pass this on; if not, just ignore. See you in hell'."



RIB STICKS. A zappetizing appetizer from Tequila Joe's, rib sticks basted in honey bourbon come with grilled corn wheels, fries and honey Dijon dip. Best with TJ's P25 local beers. TJ's at El Pueblo, Tomas Morato Glorietta 4, Robinson's Malate, Alabang and Ayala Center, Cebu.

A taste of New Orleans

DINING OUT

STARTING Aug. 8, the all-American food house Burgoo will offer its guests four new dishes inspired by the famous New Orleans cuisine.

The "New Orleans dishes are also known as 'Creole and Cajun cooking' where strong herbs and spices are used, making the food extra-tasty. New Orleans is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the US because of its Mardi Gras and food festival, and as a restaurant offering American dishes, we feel it is only fitting for us to feature this time this kind of cuisine in our menu." Available until the end of November are Cajun treats such as Seafood Gumbo, Ribs and Shrimp Platter, Oyster Au Gratin, and Seafood Boil. Among the new dishes are the 'Four Brilliant Choices'—Shrimp Pomelo Salad, Grilled Steak and Steamed Salmon Supreme, Prawns Cacciotore, and Seafood Jambalaya. Also offered are the four delicious entrees—Sweet Peppers and Grilled Chicken, Baked Salmon Alfredo, Grilled Steak ala Pobre, and Orange Spareribs. Burgoo's branches are located at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City; 3/L Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City; and at the 2/L, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 9277424, 8981815 or 6875254.

GLORIA MARIS at Greenbelt 2 in Makati presents its special lunch set menu for this month prepared by its Hong Kong chef, Henry Ho. A set menu for two persons includes shredded fishlip soup, garlic chicken, steamed fish fillet with garlic, prawns with glutinous rice in basket, mango sago and butchi for P600. A set menu for four includes seafood spinach soup, steamed prawns with garlic, sweet and sour fish fillet, steamed mashed beancurd with egg white, lemon chicken, garlic fried rice, mango and butchi for P1,180. For a group of six, assorted cold cuts, hot chicken and prawn salad, shredded fishlip soup, patatim, gindara with Japanese sauce, roasted duck steamed crab, yang chow fried rice, butchi and mango sago for P2,700. Call 7574171 and 7574174.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA will open its new Japanese restaurant, Nishiki on Aug. 15. Its dishes will include Shangri-La assorted sashimi, angler fish liver in ponzu sauce, kani and cucumber wrapped in radish and squid with plum paste, salmon with roe and Japanese jelly with radish. Summer Palace offers Lobster Specials until Aug. 18. Dishes include cold lobster salad, live lobster sashimi, baked lobster in superior stock, lobster congee, lobster with dried shrimps, sauteed lobster in garlic, X.O. and dried chili sauces. Call 6338888.

MANILA Pavilion's Cafe Coquilla features Hola Zamboanga! Fiesta de Comida on Aug. 18-29. Savor Marisco en la Homo, Vaca Pochero and Curacha.

SULO Hotel's Cafe Paraiso offers an eat-all-you-can promo: Diners can feast on Continental and Filipino fare. Sulo Hotel is located on Matalino Road, Diliman, QC. Call 9245051 to 71.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel features the Chef's Dinner Special, which is steamed, grilled, pan-fried or baked. Sauces like Lemon Beurre Blanc, Spicy Calamansi and Soy Sauce, Sauce Choron, Lobster Sauce and Sauce Maitre d'Hotel will enhance the flavors of these underwater delights. Call 6387777.

THE PENINSULA Manila's Mi Place Restaurant offers antipasti lunch buffet of salads, olives and vegetables, cured hams and seafood. Call 8872888.

HERITAGE Hotel Manila's Cake Shop and Restaurant Riviera presents New York Cheesecake. It's made of French cream cheese, egg, lemon zest and fresh dairy cream, graham crumbs and adorned with cream rosettes, blueberry and angeliques. Call 8548888.

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza's Poolside Barbecue offers soup, salad, appetizers, grilled meat and seafood, pastries and *halo-halo*.

HEN LIN presents Mami Festival, a collection of special noodle in soup meals like Chicken *Asado* Mami, Beef Mami, Chicken Mami and Lomi.

ICHIZEN Japanese Food and Cafe, located at 2057 Legarda St. (tel. 3094080) and UST P. Noval (3094276), Manila, offers Lunch Express meals such as Chicken Teppanyaki, Beef Teriyaki, Donburi Toppings and Ebi Tempura at affordable prices.

GLORIA MARIS
SHARK'S FIN RESTAURANT
GREENBELT 2
Ground Floor, Greenbelt 2
Tel. Nos.: 757-4171

Special Set Menu for 12
- Assorted Cold Cuts
- Hot Chicken and Prawn Salad
- Shredded Fishlip Soup
- Patatim
- Gindara with Japanese Sauce
- Roasted Duck
- Steamed Crabs
- Yang Chow Fried Rice
- Butchi
- Mango Sago

Before P 8,000 5,200
Good for 6 Persons P 2,700

- Suckling Pig Cold Cuts
- Steamed Prawns with Garlic
- Double Luck S. Fin Soup
- Sliced Local Abalone with BK Mushroom
- Peking Duck 2 Ways
- Steamed Lapu Lapu
- Minced Duck with Lettuce
- Steamed Crab
- Yang Chow Fried Rice
- Butchi
- Mango Sago

Before. P 11,000 7,380
Good for 6 Persons P 3,790

Set Menu for 6
GOOD for LUNCH only
- Peking Duck 2 Ways (½)
- Fish Lip Soup
- Baked Prawns
- Steamed Lapu-Lapu
- Abalone Mushroom w/ Bamboo Fungus
- Minced Duck w/ Lettuce
- Fried Stuffed Beancurd
- Garlic Fried Rice
- Mango Sago/Buchi

Before P 3,800 Now: P 1,980

50% PRICE OFF
Lunch & Dinner
1 Whole Peking Duck
Before P 1,550
2 Ways: (1st Way) Skinning (2nd Way) Fried Duck Bones
Offer good while supply last

DAILY SEAFOOD SPECIAL PROMO

MON	IMPORTED GINDARA FISH Steamed w/Ancient Style or Fried w/ Japanese Sauce	Before P 700(s) NOW P350(s)
TUE	LIVE SUAHE Steamed or Fried w/ Salt & Pepper	Before P 1,200/kl NOW P600/kl
WED	LIVE LAPU-LAPU Steamed or Fried	Before P 1,200/kl NOW P600/kl
THU	LIVE CRABS Fried w/ Salt & Pepper or Steamed	Before P 900/kl NOW P500/kl
FRI	BIG PRAWNS Baked w/ superior sauce or Steamed w/ Garlic (min of 4 pcs)	Before P 120/pc NOW P60/pc
SAT	LIVE LOBSTER Baked w/ Superior Sauce or Steamed w/ Garlic	Before P 2,000/kl NOW P1,000/kl
SUN	IMPORTED WHOLE ABALONE Braised w/ Oyster Sauce & Veg	Before P 1,250(pc) NOW P850(pc)

Also Available:
Set Menu for 2 (for P600) & 4 (for 1,180)
GOOD FOR LUNCH ONLY
Effective July 1
Lunch Time. Also serve Dimsum & Noodle Soup

This promo is available only at Greenbelt 2

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TO EDSA
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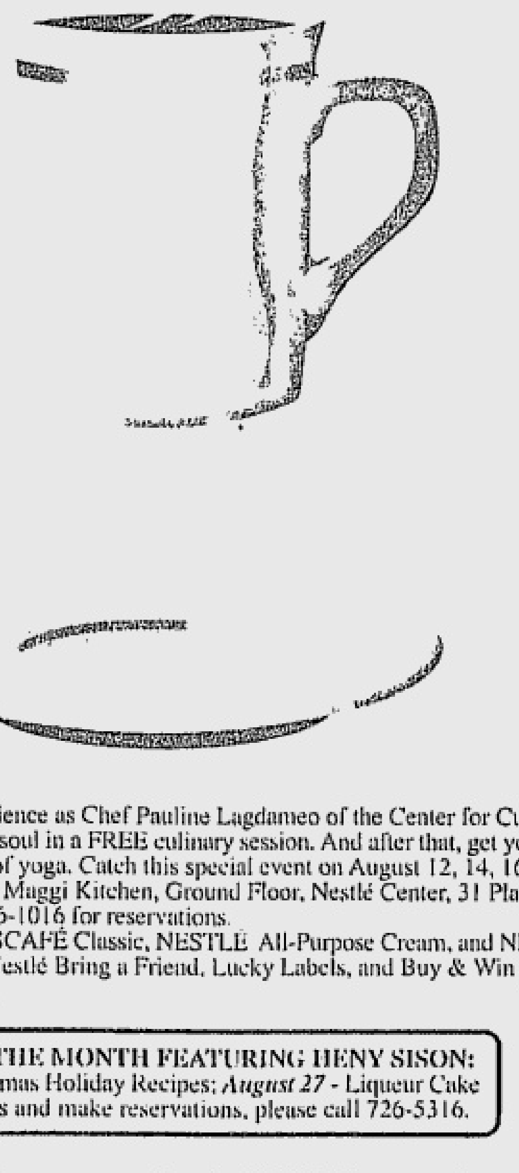
ARNAIZ (PASAY ROAD)

Julius Maggi Kitchen
Cooking up a lifestyle.



Enjoy an elevating after-dinner experience as Chef Pauline Lagdameo of the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila shares NESCAFÉ desserts to satisfy your soul in a FREE culinary session. And after that, get yourself into position as an expert initiates you to the wonders of yoga. Catch this special event on August 12, 14, 16, 19 and 23.

Classes are from 2-5 PM at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Ground Floor, Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Call 726-9232 or 726-1016 for reservations.

Invite a friend and bring labels of NESCAFÉ Classic, NESTLÉ All-Purpose Cream, and NESTLÉ Coffeemate for a chance to win special prizes in the Nestlé Bring a Friend, Lucky Labels, and Buy & Win promos. Ask for details when you make your reservations.

SPECIALS OF THE MONTH FEATURING HENY SISON:
August 25 - Christmas Holiday Recipes; *August 27* - Liqueur Cake
To inquire on fees and make reservations, please call 726-5316.

JOIN THE NESTLÉ CLUB. Fill out the coupon below so we can send you the Nestlé Club form to complete -- our way of getting to know you better **Mail to P.O. Box 1163, Makati Central Post Office** *or fax to* **890-5012.**

For more information, please call 898-0061 (Mondays to Fridays, 8am - 6pm)

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PDI

80 films 30 countries 17 days

MAKATI
CINEMANILA
5TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

7-24 August, 2003 Greenbelt Cinemas, Ayala Center

Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival is a venue for the screening of internationally-acclaimed movies, the gathering of celebrated filmmakers and film lovers, and a celebration of film and culture. For five years since 1999, Makati Cinemanila has been bringing only the best and latest in world cinema to Philippine shores, and at the same time bringing Philippine cinema to the world. The 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival is proud to showcase over 80 films from 30 different countries from August 7-24, 2003 at the Greenbelt Cinemas in Ayala Center Makati City.

The 5th Makati Cinemanila Film Competition is at its most exciting yet, with 16 films from around the globe competing for the top prizes. Awards at stake are the Grand Prize Lino Brocka Award, to be conferred by an international Jury of prominent film personalities, the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) Award, the Grand Jury Prize, the Ishmael Bernal Award for Young/Alternative Cinema, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Documentary, Best Short Film, Best Screenplay, and the Special Jury Prize.

The 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival will be formally opened with the awarding of Lifetime Achievement Awards to Filipino-American Hollywood Stars Lou Diamond Phillips, Tia Carrere, Rob Schneider, Dean Devlin and Fritz Friedman for their efforts in the plight of Filipino war veterans and their outstanding careers in world entertainment. The opening films are Filipino-American director Gene Cajayon's "The Debut" and the Philippine premiere of "City of God" by Fernando Meirelles from Brazil.

Fellow Lifetime Achievement Awardees are the Star for All Seasons Philippine actress Vilma Santos and Indonesian actress and activist Christine Hakim. Other special guests at this year's festival are Brazilian director Fernando Meirelles and Czech director Petr Zelenka, Malaysian director U-wei Haji Saari, Scriptwriter Prabda Yoon from Thailand, Indonesian director Garin Nugroho and many more.

But Makati Cinemanila isn't just about movies and stars. Not to be missed are these important Makati Cinemanila events:

Date	Events	Time	Venue
August 7	Opening Night The Debut *(by invitation only)* City of God *(Tickets Available at Ayala Cinemas)*	9:00pm 11:00pm	Greenbelt OnStage Greenbelt 3, Cinema 2
August 8	Global Visions for Philippine Cinema. A Film Symposium	1:30pm – 4pm	Glorietta 4, Cinema 7
August 21	Awards Night	8:00pm	OnStage
August 22	1st day Asia – Europe Scriptlab		Asian Institute of Management
August 22	"Music Night"(Screening of *Year of the Devil* (Rok Dabla) by Petr Zelenka to be followed by a live musical performance)	6:00pm	Premiere THX
August 23	2nd day Asia – Europe Scriptlab		Asian Institute of Management
August 24	3rd day Asia – Europe Scriptlab		Asian Institute of Management

		Greenbelt 3, Cinema 1	**Greenbelt 1, Cinema 1**	**Greenbelt 1, Cinema 2**
Aug. 8 - Friday	11.30 am	**Drifting Clouds** [Finland]	**Bellissima** [Poland]	**The Buttoners** [Czech Republic]
	2.00 pm	**Madame Broutte** [Senegal]	**Double Portrait** [Poland]	**Oil Children** [Iran]
	4.30 pm	**The Debut** [USA]	**Mr. and Mrs. Iyer** [India]	**The Tracker** [Australia]
	7.00 pm	**Smimming Pool** [France]	**Divine Intervention** [Palestine]	**Japon** [Mexico]
	9.30 pm	**Dogville** [Denmark]	**Edi** [Poland]	**Erotic Tales** [Germany]
Aug. 9 - Saturay	11.30 am	**Mr. & Mrs. Iyer** [India]	**The Buttoners** [Czech Republic]	**Oil Children** [Iran]
	2.00 pm	**The Tracker** [Australia]	**Divine Intervention** [Palestine]	**Uzak (Distant)** [Turkey]
	4.30 pm	**Japon** [Mexico]	**Swimming Pool** [France]	**Madame Broutte** [Senegal]
	7.00 pm	**Erotic Tales** [Germany]	**Dogville** [Denmark]	**Man Without a Past** [Finland]
	9.30 pm	**City of God** [Brazil]	**Dogville** [Denmark]	**Waiting for Happiness** [Mauritania]
Aug.10 - Sunday	11:30 am	**Madame Brouette** [Senegal]	**Bellissima** [Poland]	**Charlie:Life&Art of Charles Chaplin** [USA]
	2.00 pm	**Edi** [Poland]	**The Barbeque People** [Israel]	**Double Portrait** [Poland]
	4.30 pm	**Belleville Rendezvous** [Belgium]	**Days of Being Wild** [HK]	**Edi** [Poland]
	7.00 pm	**Divine Intervention** [Palestine]	**Chungking Express** [Hong Kong]	**Missing Gun** [China]
	9.30 pm	**24 Hour Party People** [UK]	**Drifting Clouds** [Finland]	**Happy Together** [HK]
Aug. 11- Monday	11:30 am	**Double Portrait** [Poland]	**Drifting Clouds** [Finland]	**Oil Children** [Iran]
	2.00 pm	**Charlie:Life&Art of Charles Chaplin** [USA]	**Waiting for Happiness** [Mauritania]	**Mr. & Mrs. Iyer** [India]
	4.30 pm	**Japon** [Mexico]	**Uzak (Distant)** [Turkey]	**Edi** [Poland]
	7.00 pm	**Lan Yu** [Hong Kong]	**The Crime of Father Amaro** [Mexico]	**Man Without a Past** [Finland]
	9.30 pm	**Swimming Pool** [France]	**Bandit Queen** [India]	**Bob Dylan:Don't Look Back** [USA]
Aug. 12- Tuesday	11:30 am	**Man Without a Past** [Finland]	**The Barbeque People** [Israel]	**Mr. & Mrs. Iyer** [India]
	2.00 pm	**Missing Gun** [China]	**Uzak (Distant)** [Turkey]	**The Tracker** [Australia]
	4.30 pm	**City of God** [Brazil]	**Divine Intervention** [Palestine]	**Oil Children** [Iran]
	7.00 pm	**Whale Rider** [New Zealand]	**Japon** [Mexico]	**Belleville Rendezvous** [Belgium]
	9.30 pm	**Infernal Affairs** [Hong Kong]	**Bob Dylan:Don't Look Back** [USA]	**24 Hour Party People** [UK]

Note: Additional screenings to be announced later.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Malacañan Palace

I greet the men and women behind the **5th Cinemanila International Film Festival.**

Consistent with our goal to promote the film industry as an important medium in propagating good values, we have recognized quality films that exemplify the excellence of Filipino cinematic artists and technicians. Cognizant of its economic and social relevance, we continue to support the local film industry together with all its stakeholders.

I welcome this festival as a perfect opportunity to sample the most brilliant gems crafted by the local film industry, as well as its foreign counterparts. Because a film mirrors the country of its origin, this event will also deepen cross-cultural understanding as your theme, "Linking Lives through Cinema," aptly enunciates.

I salute the organizers for a festival well executed and invite everyone to see and appreciate all the quality films on show.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Vice President

My warmest greetings to the organizers and participants in the **5th Cinemanila International Film Festival** to be held on August 7 - 24, 2003.

The movie industry is not only a profitable entertainment fare; it is a unique medium with which to document the unfolding development of the Philippines.

Your theme, "Linking Lives through Cinema," reflects your aim to promote appreciation of other people's culture and to build network and cooperation with different countries around the world through the language of film. The Administration indeed supports your aim for the country to regain its stature as the center of film making in Asia. The festival is the best means by which we can develop new and independent talents by providing new and independent Filipino filmmakers a venue for competition and exposure.

I commend you all for your hard work and wish for the success of this festival and all worthwhile endeavors.

No doubt, you are eager to improve the plight of the Philippine movie industry and to help build a progressive Filipino nation. Together let us give the industry its much-needed boost.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT !

Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.

Republic of the Philippines
City of Makati

After 5 years, the Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival has fully emerged as one of the most anticipated film events in the Philippines. Conceived as a festival honoring the independent spirit and power of film, Makati Cinemanila has made its mark in the local and international film circuit, as shown by the increasing number of films in exhibition, the increasing number of audieces attending our screenings, and the distinguished roster of film critics and practitioners participating in workshops and discussions on the craft of film making.

Makati Cinemanila has provided all of us with a steady and satisfying feast of new and exciting cinema from both established and emerging film artists from Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America, and Latin America. The City of Makati is honored to welcome everyone to our city, the permanent home of Makati Cinemanila.

This year, Makati Cinemanila marks another milestone, as it honors the achievements of the Filipino-American film community. "Linking Lives Through Cinema," the theme of this year's festival, allows us Filipinos to celebrate our unique culture, a culture which we proudly share with the rest of the world, and reflect the laudable efforts of the organizers of Makati Cinemanila to bring Filipino Cinema to the rest of the world, and to bring the world of cinema to our shores.

On behalf of my fellow workers in the local government and the people of Makati, thank you for once again being part of Makati Cinemanila.

Jejomar C. Binay
Mayor of Makati

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

My warmest gretings to the 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival

For me, the fact that this formerly roving event appears to have found a permanent home in this city is a source of great pride and joy.

It is only fitting and proper that the most prestigious international film festival in our country should be held in and associated with the County's premier city and financial capital.

Beyond sheer prestige, we can only be grateful for the priceless bounty it offers by way of a virtual cinematic feast, not only to the elite crowd of sophisticated film buffs but to the general public as well.

It comes to no suprise that with each year's celebration the filmfest has become bigger and better than ever. The oppurtunity to see movies of consistent high quality - both local and international - is an exquisite treat that a growing number of Metro Manila movie audiences look forward to.

That's because - beyond the usual escapist and blockbuster fare - there is a crying need for movies that not only entertain, but inform, move, challenge, enlighten and uplift us, and thus enduringly enrich our lives. Such fine samples of cinematic art are what we have come to expect from the Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival.

For that reason, I salute and Congratulate the organizers and participants of this affair and wish you more success now and the years to come.

Butz Aquino
Agapito "Butz" Aquino
Representative, 2nd District, Makati

Cinemanila International Film Festival

CINEMANILA
international film festival

We are proud to be celebrating global and Filipino cinema with our audiences once again. Just as the moving image connects our aesthetic sense with deeper emotions and sentiments, a wider perspective of cinema allows us to link our lives and cultural experience with other lives and other cultures.

Moving pictures are here to move us. They present great and serious themes, put forward issues that concern modern-day humanity, and point out brave new avenues. But the adventure continues, beyond the subject, beyond the subject matter. At Cinemanila, the very medium is explored, with equal seriousness and bravado: from short- and feature-length experimental film-making, to working in the digital domain, making films without using film.

If movies continue reflecting the link between art and technology, then they should also mirror the relationship between cultural understanding and progress. Now on its fifth year, Cinemanila continues to challenge and energize its audiences with incisive and inspiring work, and further strengthens its mission to discover and develop young film-makers.

While it has been both a privilege and an honor to lend our vision to new visionaries, we also consider it a great responsibility to help grow a true independent cinema, created by Filipinos for Filipinos—and for the world. This year marks a particular victory for independent cinema, with the establishment of new programs that will prove powerful motivation and inspiration for young emerging talent.

Also inspiring is the distinguished roster of film-makers, scenarists and experts who will be sharing insights and ideas from their own experience in global cinema. This year, we are especially delighted to have renowned Filipino-American Hollywood personalities grace our festival. Never has the link between our cinema and the cinema of the rest of the world been so palpable.

Never, perhaps, has cinema also represented a more vital relationship. If movies help us create links with other lives and other worlds, then they should also help us forge stronger connections with our own culture and history.

Thank you and see you at the Cinema!

Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI
Festival Director, Cinemanila

www.cinemanila.com.ph

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